

THE *Ranfurly* SHIELD STORY



by J. K. MOLONEY

A SPORTING TRADITION

During the past forty years O'B Football Boots have earned a high reputation. They have been worn by many famous New Zealand players and also chosen by members of touring teams. New features in design and manufacture are continually being introduced and today annual production exceeds 35,000 pairs.

But the history of O'B Footwear goes further back than this. It was in 1866, during the Gold Rush on the West Coast, that Michael O'Brien a young Irishman from County Clare, set up his bootmaking and repair business in Greymouth. In 1884 he moved to Christchurch and in 1893 purchased the Colosseum, formerly a skating rink and since demolished to make way for New Regent Street. In 1901 he built a factory in Dundas Street and this is still the home of the company.

Before the turn of the century, his four sons had grown to manhood and developed into prominent Rugby footballers. Three played in the Linwood senior fifteen including Joe, who represented Canterbury and the South Island as wing-threequarter and was considered unlucky to be passed over for the All Black team.

A fourth son, the late Dr. A. B. O'Brien, father of the present Managing Director, Mr. M. F. O'Brien, played Rugby for Kent, and captained Guy's Hospital in both Rugby and cricket. He was also player-manager of Bedell-Seivwright's British Team which toured Australia and New Zealand in 1904. Many will remember his dashing displays at centre-three-quarter and full-back and will recall his prowess in the art of drop-kicking. A former manager, the late Mr. A. J. O'Brien, was a senior footballer and cricketer, and his brother, Mr. Frank O'Brien, now Assistant Manager, is well known to cricketers throughout the Dominion and represented Canterbury for over ten years.

Although Michael O'Brien had not had the opportunity for sport in his own youth, and at first frowned on his son's participation, he eventually followed their activities with increasing interest. So keen on the game did he become that one of his stock questions to a man applying for work



1920

was, it is alleged, "Do you play football?" If the answer was yes, the applicant usually got the job!

As a result of this, M. O'Brien & Co. were able to field a team for some years which was strong enough to defeat all rival business houses; and the Linwood Club benefited also by the addition of several players who helped it win the championship on several occasions.

In the days of piecework, when the proprietor's hold on his employees was rather slight, it is said that many stirring games of football were played in working hours. On cold mornings it was not uncommon to see younger employees stealing out of the factory, one by one, to an adjacent paddock, where they warmed up with a game, before beginning the day's work.

Since those days, the company has continued to manufacture and improve the well-known O'B Work Boots and, in addition, O'Briens are now the leading makers of Safety Footwear (boots and shoes with steel toe reinforcement), which are rapidly proving their worth in industry. The company also manufactures a wide range of men's shoes, as well as many types of sports footwear.

It is interesting to note that, except for one period of 15 years, the firm of M. O'Brien & Co. Ltd. has been managed by a member of the family throughout its existence.

The pioneering spirit of the founder has been carried on successfully and recent developments include a new factory to produce the revolutionary **Paraflex** vulcanised footwear under licence to Ro-Search Inc., U.S.A. The company has also completed negotiations to manufacture casual footwear under licence to another well-known American firm, L. B. Evans of Massachusetts.

Since 1866 O'Briens have established a name for quality and their well-known O'B brand is always associated with the best in footwear. The firm intends to continue its policy of expansion and modernisation so that it will be able to supply the people of New Zealand with footwear of a standard comparable with that obtainable anywhere in the world.



1960

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Foreword

THE friends of J. K. ("Pat") Moloney—and they are legion throughout New Zealand and much further afield—have heard him discourse with the authority of a great Rugby mind on many aspects of the game. They have heard him reminisce on historic happenings of the past—some of them almost buried in antiquity—and they must often have wished, as I have done, that he could be persuaded to put some of his entertaining and entrancing stories of Rugby football in many parts of New Zealand into print.

Well, now he has done so, and his "Ranfurly Shield Story" is the result of years of research and effort. He has been able to draw upon his intimate association with some of the most famous personalities the game has known—men of the calibre of Otago's Jimmy Duncan, captain of the 1903 All Blacks and one of the greatest tacticians of any period; V. G. Cavanagh, sen. and jun., whose successes with Otago Ranfurly Shield teams are now Rugby history; Ted McKenzie and Norman McKenzie, whose contribution to Rugby in their own provinces and nationally will never be forgotten. And hosts of others whose knowledge of the background to many of the memorable games of the past is akin to that of the author of this book.

Both Norman McKenzie and the two Cavanaghs were the architects of some of the most famous teams in the Ranfurly Shield series. J. K. Moloney had the good fortune to see their sides in action on many occasions, just as he did some of Canterbury's most successful Shield-winning teams. He knew what lay behind the pattern of their play, and his comparisons of teams and players in "Ranfurly Shield Story" are made with the authority of personal knowledge and experience.

Although J.K. is always willing enough to pay tribute to the prowess of others, he has been singularly modest about his own prowess and success, but his friends know him well as one of the great administrators of Rugby and Amateur Athletics in his own province of Canterbury. He went up through the grades of Rugby in Christchurch and made a striking entry into senior football in 1915, impressing the critics, especially the doyen of them all, W. G. Garrard. In a normal year he would have been a form choice for the wing forward position in the South Island team.

His club was Canterbury College, and after the landing at Anzas, most of his team enlisted and the side folded up. In 1916, he was stand-off half of the New College Cadets Oxford side, one of the crack Service teams of that year. Invalided home after Passchendaele, he turned out with other old soldiers to help his old club to get going again.

He was chairman of the New Zealand University Rugby Council in 1920 which brought to the country the first overseas team since World War I. He organised this tour of the Sydney University Club which turned out to be an outstanding success. In 1926 he was the first chairman of the local Junior Advisory Board, and he went on to become president of the Canterbury Rugby Union, a life member, and author of the second section of the Canterbury Rugby History.

His name has been almost inseparably linked with that of the Canterbury College—now University—Club. His enthusiasm and his great faith in the players who have made up this club have undoubtedly helped it towards one of the most notable chapters in Canterbury Rugby history since World War II. He has been club captain and president of this club as well as being a life member. Famous All Black Mark Nicholls once said of him, "He is the Shaw of Rugby".

His interest in athletics has been almost as close. He was president of the Canterbury Centre of the New Zealand Amateur Athletic Association, a vice-president of the New Zealand Olympic and British Empire Games Association, and a member of the New Zealand Swimming Council.

With Dolph Kitto he was selector of the New Zealand team to the Empire Games in 1938 which included those fine runners Boot and Matthews. He knew all the great athletic stars such as Haskins, Rose, Dormer and Keddell, and was an intimate friend of Jack Lovelock. In 1951 he was mainly instrumental in bringing Bannister to this country. This was before that great runner broke four minutes for the mile.

To his home have come distinguished sportsmen from many lands. They have always been made welcome by Mr. Moloney and his charming wife and family, and from these visitors Mr. Moloney has been able to garner much in the way of sporting lore.

I believe his "Ranfurly Shield Story" is unique because it has been written by a man who has seen most of what he is talking about, and because his reminiscences have come from men who knew. J. K. Moloney has given of his best to sport; he has given a lifetime of loyal and devoted service. I wish his book well.

E. C. ISAACS, M.B.E.,

Editor, Greymouth "Evening Star".

(Formerly Sports Editor, "Otago Daily Times", Dunedin.)

May 21, 1960.

DEDICATION

To the University of Canterbury Rugby Football Club and the Old Maroons, a great company of men who always put the game before the prize.

I wish to acknowledge my debt to the following: Albert Keast, H. C. Blazey, Bert King, Mark Comber, V. G. Cavanagh, E. C. Isaacs, P. J. Sheehan, Alan Felton, Mac Vincent, Stephen Noonan, Fred Allen, H. E. Davis, G. H. Brittenden, George Speed, O. S. Hintz, Lance Johnson, Read Masters, the Auckland Rugby Football Union, the Canterbury Football Union and the New Zealand Newspapers Ltd.

The Ranfurly Shield Story

By J. K. MOLONEY

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

THE Governor of New Zealand fifty-five years ago was a charming Irishman, Lord Ranfurly. He is remembered because of his good works, but also because he gave his name to a Shield to be competed for among the Rugby playing provinces of New Zealand. By this he achieved a measure of immortality.

In 1902 Auckland had the best record and to them went the Shield. They had experienced little difficulty in defeating Canterbury 19-3, Wellington 18-5, and Taranaki 21-3. No matches were played in 1903.

The first game for the Shield was played in Alexandra Park in Auckland on August 6th, 1904. This game was quite overshadowed by another game, on the same day at Christchurch, when the touring British team defeated a composite team by 5 points to 3, in the first game of its New Zealand tour.

The significance of the visit of Bedell-Seivwright's team has been lost on most followers of the game. The previous British team which toured Australia in 1899 did not come to New Zealand, and before they left England had an idea of fitting in a game or two against New Zealand, which they had a hazy notion was somewhere adjacent to the coast of Australia.

This 1904 combination had no excuse for geographical haziness, for included in their number were two former Canterbury players, medical students, in Arthur O'Brien and Pat McEvedy. Nevertheless they still held to the idea that Australia was the stronghold of Rugby in the south and that New Zealand was very "small potatoes".

Thus it was that the New Zealand portion of their tour was only a hurried affair tacked on to the end of their Australian campaign. The Australian Rugby authorities, indeed, took up rather a cavalier attitude and considered that they should have their own gate-keeper at Lancaster Park, but the request was firmly rejected by the Canterbury Union.

This British side of 1904 had had a most successful tour of Australia, and from June 18th till July 30th had played and won 13 games. They scored 250 points to 31 against and defeated

Australia in the three tests by 17 to nil, 17 to 3, and 26 to nil—scores of quite remarkable consistency.

I don't think there was ever a team which holds so much interest for New Zealanders as this one. Besides the two Canterbury men, McEvedy and O'Brien (the latter acted as Manager), there was, at full-back, Stanger-Leathes of Durham, who became a big industrialist in the north, and was over here in 1958 to do a little fishing and to see his old rival Billy Wallace of 1905 fame.

There was that great array of Welsh backs, Gabe of Cardiff, Jewett of Swansea, Llewellyn of Newport, Morgan, Guy's Hospital and Wales, Vile of Newport and Bush of Cardiff.

The forwards were led by the fiery Bedell-Seivwright, Cambridge and Scotland; others were Harding, London Welsh, who afterwards settled in New Zealand. The Irishmen, Edwards and Patterson of Malone, Dobson of Oxford and Swannell of Northampton.

The great quartette, Bush, Gabe, Morgan and Llewellyn, have a unique place in our memories.

There is no doubt that in Australia they played great football. Then they came to New Zealand. After the hard, fast grounds of Australia they encountered harsh wintry conditions, and they encountered, too, teams of quite exceptional quality—we were never so strong as we were in 1904.

At Lancaster Park the playing area had been under snow, and the visitors stated with strong conviction that it was the worst ground by far on which they had ever played.

In addition, it was extremely cold. The locals were drawn from Canterbury, South Canterbury, and the West Coast. The teams were very evenly matched and I can remember only three things of this match—Bedell-Seivwright's try when he tobogganed into the snow where the Number 4 stand is now, Dean's great try, and a very long slide by Peter Menzies on his posterior. Britain won by 5-3.

In Dunedin, a record crowd of some 20,000 packed the Caledonian Ground to see what a combined Otago and Southland team could do.

ground was slippery, but not so bad as to preclude good passing. The British seemed to run through the opposition for a while in the first spell, scoring 14 points in as many minutes.

The home team came to life in the second game for the visitors and Colin Gilray showed speed and put on 8 points. Bush showed terrific glimpses of the form which was to make him one of the greatest centres ever seen at the Universities in England.

The old hands, however, were not over-impressed; what would Kaikorai or Alhambra have done to them in their heyday? And what would have happened if Duncan, the master, had been behind the Blue scrum?

And so on to Wellington for the test against New Zealand. The All Blacks had polished themselves with a "punt about" at Day's Bay, but they did not need it, for they were a very great team.

Sandwiched between the amazing sides of 1903 and 1905, they should have been good. They were a noble team with greatness both back and forward. Harvey was half, and the two dependables, Morry Wood and Billy Stead, were five-eighths.

And the three-quarter line! Duncan McGregor, Eric Harper, and Billy Wallace. Dick McGregor was full-back. The forwards were among the best sets that ever wore the black jersey—Gallaher, Nicholson, Seeling, Fanning, Tyler, Glenn, Cross and McMinn. New Zealand won by a small margin, 9-3, but this did not tell the full story.

Everyone I have asked about this game has told me the same thing—the British simply could not cope with the brilliance of the New Zealand attack. The All Black forwards were tremendous, and the backs were flyers. Duncan McGregor was in form and simply flew through the air. Percy Bush stated that the British backs couldn't manage the New Zealand forwards—they wouldn't be contained.

Taranaki were the next to meet the tourists. They played six backs and nine forwards. The backs were all internationals—Hunter at half, Mynott behind him at five-eighth, the three-quarters Mona Thomson, J. Stalker and Bunny Abbott. Fookes, an old English international, was fullback. He was the father of those accomplished footballers, "Hatch", Ken and Syd.

The conditions were deplorable; Taranaki played one out of the box. Bedell-Seivwright said that if anything Taranaki had played better than did New Zealand. The standard of football, he was convinced, was equal to that of the Old Country.

On to Auckland. Here a vast crowd saw an Auckland side—probably with Hawke's Bay the greatest of all provincial combinations—defeat the British by the large margin of 13 to nil. The

Auckland pack, containing six 1905 men, was perhaps the greatest provincial pack ever fielded—Gallaher, Tyler, Mackrell, Cunningham, Nicholson, Seeling, Joyce and Hayward. The insides were Kiernan, Wood and Dick McGregor.

Both in this game, and in the Test at Wellington, the foundation of victory was laid in the forwards; it was a case of a set of eight dashing, resolute forwards carrying all before them and swarming among the opposing backs.

One of the people in a good position to judge was Mr. W. A. Rand, Secretary of the New South Wales Rugby Union, travelling with the British team, who saw many of their matches in Australia.

"The Auckland forwards were very good and, in my opinion, they make the best combination I have seen in action in New Zealand," he said. "They did not give the British backs a chance at all. The British forwards were completely beaten."

At Rotorua, much to the astonishment of the tourists, they were beaten by a Maori team by 8-6. In the second half, when Rotorua came from behind to gain a victory, they were acclaimed by hundreds of Maori warriors who shook the ground with the thunder of their hakas.

It has been said that the tourists suffered from staleness. They had played 13 games in six weeks in Australia, but showed no sign of tiredness on their last game there. The forwards, perhaps, might have lost some of their form, but their backs were most vigorous on defence. The performance of this team must be taken into account when evaluating the relative merits of New Zealand and Welsh football in the year that followed.

Bedell-Seivwright's team had made an instant impression in Australia. In the first game against New South Wales, they played brilliantly. "The best back division and the cleverest ever seen in Australia" would be something to test the quality of New Zealand.

The British had astonished everyone with their pace both back and forward and, what is more surprising was that the visitors should display such "india-rubber" bounce and quickness so soon after such a long sea voyage. The New Zealanders, they said, never showed form of this kind after the four-day trip across the Tasman.

The Welsh back the spearhead of the British attack

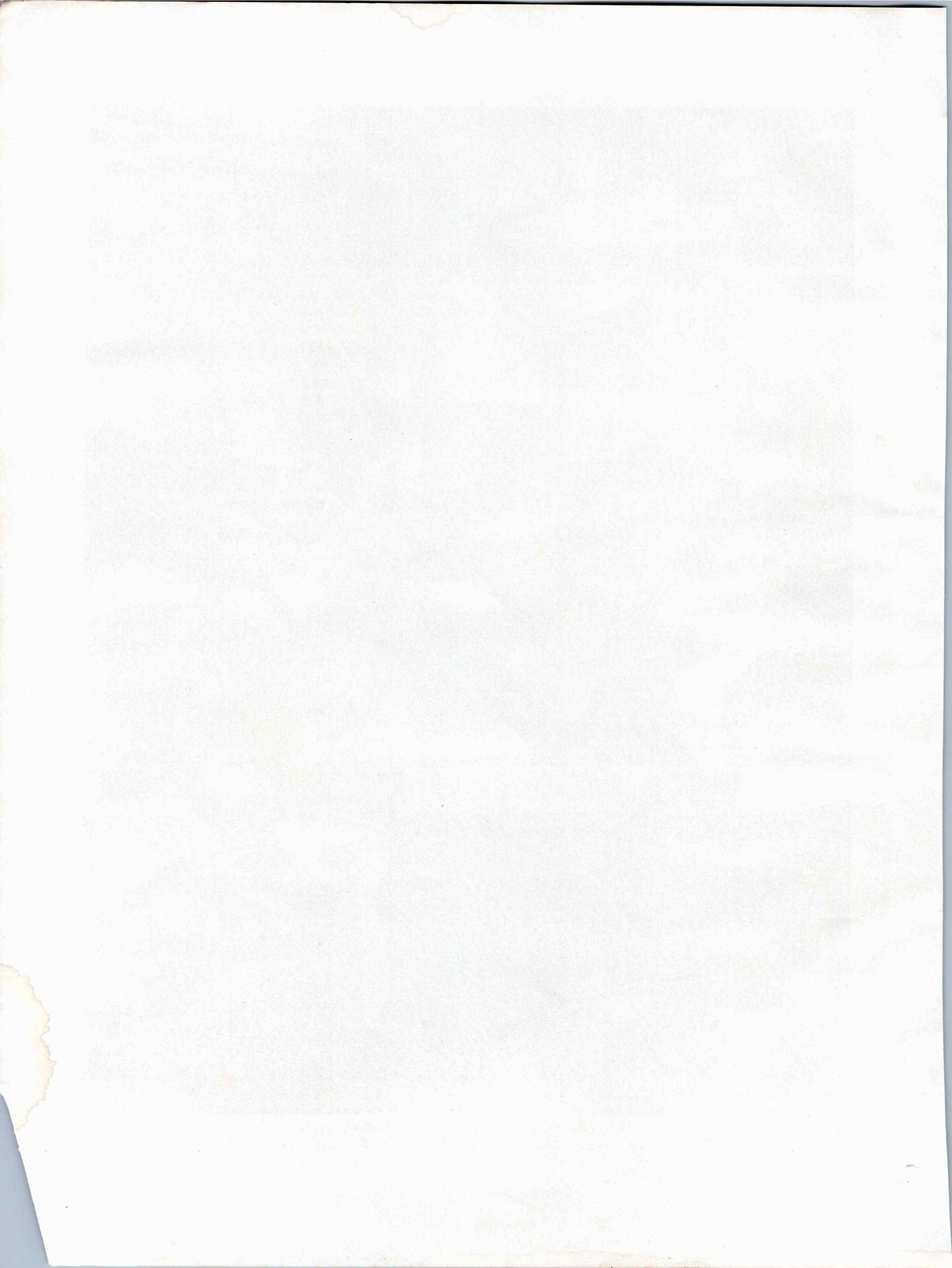
The men who took part in the scoring movement which produced the famous try in the Wales-New Zealand match in 1905 were Gabe, Bush, Llewellyn and Morgan. It is strange that no one has ever remarked how this self-same quartette, in association on the Australian tour, produced several movements of the same type.

In this New South Wales game, for instance, some of the tries were the result of beautifully



THE SHIELD COMES TO AUCKLAND

W. J. Whineray holding the Ranfurly Shield high as he arrived at Whenuapai. On the left is T. R. Lineen



executed movements; they were marked by hard running and perfect timing in drawing the defence.

Let us take the first try. The play was in the British twenty-five, and Bush, in the face of the Blue forwards, set his backs going. At half-way on the right wing he passed to O'Brien, to Gabe, who outpaced Wickham, and 10 yards from the corner passed to Llewellyn, who raced across.

Just after the interval they repeated the performance, and again, on his own twenty-five, Bush set his backs in motion; Gabe dashed along very fast on the left wing, drew his man, and passed to Morgan who went behind the posts.

The last was a clinker. Bush again got the ball in his twenty-five, started for the open side, but fainted and came around on the blind. He set off, dodging man after man, until he reached the goal-line to give the leather to Edwards, who scored. Arthur O'Brien converted all these tries. Britain 17, New South Wales nil.

In all their fixtures in Australia, these Welsh backs played magnificently. In game after game, they produced those perfect set pieces, just as if they'd practised them ad nauseum.

But they did not do it against New Zealand, for the Black forwards did not let them have the ball. The New Zealand backs, too, had rare quality.

So you have something of the atmosphere of the game when Lord Ranfurly presented the Shield to G. H. Dixon after the inter-island game at Wellington on September 13th, 1902.

The first teams:—

Wellington

D. McGregor	G. Spencer	J. Scott-Wilson
G. D. Gray	J. Barber	W. J. Wallace
	F. Roberts	
W. J. Hardham,	E. H. Dodd,	H. R. Wright,
H. Driscoll,	E. H. Best,	T. Cross,
	Watkins,	J. Calnan.

Auckland

Opai Asher	W. Harrison	Scobie Hay-McKenzie
	Peter Gerrard	
Dick McGregor	Peter Ward	
	Harry Kiernan	
Bill Cunningham,	George Nicholson,	Charlie Seeling,
W. Trevathan,	Bill Joyce,	Dave Gallaher,
	George Tyler,	Scotty Irvine.

Out of these 30 players, 20 were internationals. The opposing teams were well matched in physique and in good form, both setting out to play a hard contest in good style. It was not a brilliant game by any stretch of the imagination and there wasn't much in it.

Taking the play all round, the Auckland forwards dominated the Wellington vanguard in line-out and open play, but the latter had the

best of it in hooking the ball. The clever Wellington inside back combination of F. Roberts, Gray and Wallace handled the ball more cleverly in attack than did their opponents and showed better combination. Calnan was the best Wellington forward. McGregor and Gray, two Canterbury men, scored for the winners and Kiernan for Auckland. The date, August 6th, 1904. Wellington 6, Auckland 3.

When, two weeks later, Auckland defeated Britain so easily, the critics couldn't understand how Wellington had been allowed to defeat them in the match for the coveted Ranfurly Shield.

Here's Paddy Sheehan to tell you of the early Ranfurly Shield days:—

"These were the days of northern dominance generally, when mighty players were the rule, and not the exception, in all main provinces. Look at these teams that fought on the first challenge for the Shield in 1904 between Wellington and Auckland.

"Auckland had W. Harrison, Opai Asher, Peter Gerrard, Otago's Scobie McKenzie, Dick McGregor, Peter Ward (yes, the red-headed Peter from Southland), Harry Kiernan, Dave Gallaher, George Tyler, Bill Cunningham, Scotty Irvine, George Nicholson, Charlie Seeling, W. Trevathan and Bill Joyce.

"There was a team! Fit to play for a kingdom. Yet, Wellington licked them by two tries to one. But when you look at the names of the Wellington men, you cease to wonder, also bearing in mind that in Doddy Gray, Duncan McGregor and Tom Cross they had three cracker-jacks from the South to strengthen their arm.

"Otago sent a team to Auckland that year, and it was a very good and sound team, too. It had Billy Kindly at fullback, Dick Baxter, Bobby Bennett and E. Dobson as threequarters. Inside were "General" Booth, Jimmy King and P. Hislop. Forward were a pair of incomparable hookers, Steve Casey and little Dick Spiers. Jack Mitchell locked, with Alex McDonald and Rick Abbott in the sides, while Donald Stuart and "Massa" Johnston completed the scrum.

"And last, and, very certainly, anything but least, that real terror to any team, Harry Porteous, as the wing forward. As I said before, that was a very good team, yet Auckland beat them by four tries and a penalty goal to nil—in those days a terrific thrashing, but it does give one a comparative idea of northern strength in those times."

Actually, Wellington didn't have its own way. A week later, this Otago side met Wellington at Athletic Park in the first Otago challenge for the Shield. The weather was bleak and cold.

The general impression was that the heavy ground would tend to make the game slow and uninteresting, but things turned out differently. From the kick off it was an unusually interesting

game. Otago made the most of the advantages they received from winning the toss and, playing with the wind in the first spell, rattled up 13 points, while the home team failed to score.

The Otago backs handled the greasy ball remarkably well, while the forwards in the loose and in the open showed to greater advantage than the holders.

As soon as ends were changed, Wellington attacked vigorously and kept up the pressure all through the spell and snatched the game out of the fire by two points. Duncan McGregor was the hero of the game, scoring two tries in characteristic style, converting one and placing a goal—both magnificent considering the appalling conditions.

McGregor's fleetness of foot was a feature of the game. Otago ran with very bad luck. They played the second spell with 14 men, one of their number, Johnson, having been given his marching orders.

Canterbury's first bid for the Shield was on the 20th August, 1904, at Athletic Park, Wellington. It wasn't a game to enthuse over, as there wasn't much open play in it. The teams were:—

Canterbury

	A. E. Love	
P. Menzies	K. Ollivier	J. Lavery
R. G. Deans		H. Byrne
	P. Burns	
L. Corbett,	W. Shannon,	P. Vincent,
Newton,	C. J. Pearce,	H. Rich,
		C. Denham,
		J. Roddick.

Wellington

	G. Spencer	
H. C. McIntyre	G. D. Gray	D. McGregor
W. J. Wallace		J. Barber
	F. Roberts	
A. Griffiths,	E. H. Dodd,	E. J. Watkins,
J. Calnan,	H. R. Wright,	E. H. Best,
		J. Sweeney,
		Tom Cross.

Wallace scored two tries for Wellington and Burns scored for the challengers. Wellington 6, Canterbury 3.

Of the Canterbury men, few survive. Deans was the greatest of them all. I think he was the greatest footballer I have ever seen and in character a man of immense stature. Four short years and he was dead; few men in a short time have achieved such immortality.

He was an extraordinarily hard man to stop. He used a fend and a bump; but more often he just ran through his opponents. At Homebush he used to get the gardener to put up sticks at intervals on the grass. Here he perfected that great weaving run which was so dangerous in 1905 and he got plenty of the ball in that wonderful side.

Paddy Burns was a grand half who was unlucky to live in an era which produced Fred Roberts, a half par excellence. Paddy was a running half, very fast away from the scrum. In association with Joey Weston and "Doddy" Gray he made the Albion inside back combination a joy to watch.

Fred Newton became the reserve lock in Gallaher's team. He lived in Barbour Street, and played most of his games for Linwood on Lancaster Park. He had retired to live at Loburn, and I received a message to call and see him; this, I regret to say, I failed to do. He died in 1956, and his widow asked the Lancaster Park Board to allow his ashes to be broadcast on the oval, and this was done.

Fred and Fatty Stokes were the big men of the local swimming club, which had a long string of powerful swimmers, including Harry Wauchop, the present Chairman of the Lancaster Park Board, whose receipt of the O.B.E. recently gave such pleasure to his friends. Few men connected with sport have accomplished so much. His work for the Park spread over 40 years is monumental.

Joe Lavery and Charlie Pearce joined Baskerville's New Zealand League team and toured England in 1907. They were both top-notch players, the former being a most dashing wing.

Among the forwards, Jack Roddick had played for South Canterbury and Otago. But, more than this, he had played in the first New Zealand game against South Africa on the Wanderers' Ground, Johannesburg, in 1901.

This was a team drawn from the New Zealand contingents. It was well up to Inter-island standard and it was captained by Dave Gallaher, who played in the unusual position (for him) of half. The representatives of South Africa came from six provinces, but New Zealand carried two many guns (figuratively, of course) and won by over 20 points.

As we have seen, the year 1905 was one of magic in New Zealand football. Despite the fact that Auckland had eight men in the team for England, they still had plenty of talent.

Paddy Sheehan, on Auckland's lifting of the Shield: "Auckland's recovery of the Shield from Wellington was most unexpected and really astonishing. Denuded as they were of all their most famous forwards by the demands of the touring All Blacks, they were expected to be overrun by Wellington's eight.

"Actually their departure from Auckland was almost furtive, a shamefaced selector being about the only official with the courage to see them off on their supposedly forlorn quest.

"No one was more amazed at the result of the game than the team themselves. So delighted was one of the forwards, Scotty Bonella, that legend has it that he strapped the Shield to his

back and was setting out overland for home with it when he had the bad luck to bump into the team's manager who held different views about the Trophy's homegoing.

"Next year, with the return of their star forwards from abroad, reinforced as they were by George Gillett, 'Circus' Hayward and 'Bolla' Francis, Auckland's long tenure of the Shield really began."

Wellington, however, had to face two threats in the meanwhile. On July 8th, 1905, Wairarapa held them to a draw, 3-all, Hardham a try for Wellington and Stackman for the challengers. On August 23rd, Wellington defeated Hawke's Bay 11-3.

Auckland had a plethora of good players and, despite the loss of men away with Gallaher's team, placed the following splendid side on the field at Wellington on August 26th, 1905:

	M. Fraser	
G. Newdick	H. A. McKenzie	R. Magee
L. B. Todd	R. Wynyard	
	H. Kiernan	
C. Dunning,	W. Tyler,	W. Trevathan,
Bonella,	J. R. Maguire,	F. Herring,
	Francis,	H. Hayward.

This was an exceptionally strong forward team. Francis, Hayward, Maguire and Herring were All Blacks. Dunning was a North Island representative, and Trevathan and Tyler were to play for Baskerville's 1907 professional side. The backs, Todd and Wynyard, gained representation in the same team. Francis in particular was a famous line-out forward who was distinctly unlucky not to have gone to England.

Auckland won by 10 to 6. Wynyard and Tyler scored for Auckland and Tyler kicked a goal from a mark, which won 4 points in those days. George Spencer kicked two penalty goals for Wellington.

Thus the great Auckland team embarked on the greatest and longest run of victories in the whole glamorous history of the Shield.

Wairarapa was represented in 1905 by its best fifteen. They were all home grown in contrast with the men of 1927 and 1928. They had some great names in those days. Ted McKenzie was fullback. There were the O'Leary boys and that great threequarter Edgar Wingley. In the forwards were Bert McKenzie, A. Cadwallader, E. Beard and L. Armstrong.

In 1905, Wairarapa played two games against Wellington. The first, played at Carterton on July 8th, was won by Wellington by 15 points to 11. The ground was terribly wet and became a quagmire. Up to the last fifteen minutes Wairarapa led by 13 to 5. Wellington then made a desperate all-out attack and rattled up ten points before the whistle sounded for full time.

Later on in the next month, August 16th, Wairarapa had its first go at the Shield. The

ground was in a very bad state—there was very bad weather in 1905—and anything like good back play was out of the question.

The forwards were called upon to do a great deal of hard work in the mud and slush and it says a great deal for Wairarapa that it succeeded in making a draw of it—each side scored three points—Stackman a try for Wairarapa and Hardham for the holders.

New faces in the Wairarapa side were C. Williams, P. Rogers and H. Wicken. The latter played for Featherston Liberals—a name with a nice flavour!

Four Notable Auckland Victories in 1906

The first challenge in 1906 came from Canterbury, who were not at the time as strong as they had been some years before. In 1901 they had had a formidable forward team, including such great forwards as Wally Drake, Bernie Fanning, Rue Cooke and Tom Cross.

It would be rewarding, at this stage, to look over the Auckland record. Take their games with Canterbury, for instance. Going back to 1892, the southern province had a resounding and quite unaccountable win over the Queen City by 25-nil. For years this defeat has been remembered with regret by Aucklanders, who shake their heads when they think of it.

One of the stars in this game was a youth named Wallingford Mendelson, a Christ's College boy who was quite an extraordinary athlete. He went home to Cambridge and, but for a knee injury, might well have been capped for England.

Ted Webb told me that he was a magnificent athlete and potentially world class. The story was told of him that, at Queen's Club, circa 1895, talking to some students at the Athletic meeting between Cambridge and Oxford, he spoke of his chances in the broad jump, and said that he thought he might win it. His Cambridge friends were staggered at such brash talk for in the event was C. B. Fry of Oxford, famous test cricketer, Corinthian footballer, and holder of the world's broad jump record. Fry was one of the greatest sporting idols of any age. There came a stage towards the end of the afternoon when Oxford and Cambridge had each won four events and the long jump was left to decide the issue; by one of those odd things, "C.B." muffed his jump and the noble "Wally" carried off the event—the colonial bouncer!

Mendelson was called to the English bar in 1900 but died in 1902, a youth with tremendous unfulfilled capacity.

Canterbury had a team out of the box that year. In it were Frank Evans and George Forbes, the latter to be Prime Minister of New Zealand in later years. Three years later, at Christchurch, the northerners were again beaten by the men of the plains by 10 to nil. That was the end of

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it. For the next 15 years, Canterbury only managed to down the Aucklanders once in ten fixtures. That was in 1922, when the former ran out winners by 31-15.

Otago, always a strong province, was very powerful in the years between 1890 and World War 1. In these years 11 matches were played between Auckland and Otago, of which 5 went to the northerners and 3 to Otago, with 3 draws.

But the true yardstick of Auckland's pre-eminence is proved by the results of the games against Wellington. The Empire City, as I remember, placed in the field uniformly strong teams which played clever, nippy football, generally finishing well, in contrast with Canterbury, who started away with a great flourish in those days but died away to a walk.

In Christchurch we had a very real appreciation of Wellington's prowess, but Auckland always seemed to have the edge on them then. From 1897 to 1914 these two great rivals played 19 games. Of these, Auckland won 14, Wellington 3, and two were drawn. The figures speak for themselves.

Give it to Duffy

The year 1906 was Duffy's year. He was perhaps the most sensational goal-kick that New Zealand has produced. Wallace, of course, was at the top of the list with 111 conversions overseas—a remarkable effort; then in second place Nicholls, with 78 conversions, 18 penalty goals overseas and 17 goals in New Zealand.

Of other notable kickers the first New Zealander to score over 100 points was McCausland, of the 1888 Native team, whose total of 151 points included 64 conversions.

Then there was Stohr, whose boot was responsible for three outstanding victories, over Wellington, Canterbury and Otago in 1911. In Canterbury we had Francis and Appleby, and in Otago they had a great match winner in Trevathen, whose prowess was shown mostly in club and provincial Rugby.

Trevathen of Otago at five-eighths was a phenomenal kick. He was perhaps the greatest exponent of drop-kicking we have seen in New Zealand. He played 38 games for Otago and his great kicking powers brought victory to his province on numerous occasions. His aggregate points from kicking have probably never been beaten in inter-provincial football.

Duffy wore the Auckland jersey for one season only, but what a season! It was the custom in Auckland, when a try was scored, for the crowd to yell as one man, "Give it to Duffy", and Duffy did it.

Canterbury, as has been told, fielded a somewhat patchy side in 1906; the great Fryer was captain of the challenging side, and other stars on the side were "Doddy" Gray and Paddy

Burns. The forwards were undistinguished. Here is the team which faced the defenders on August 11th, 1906:

Canterbury

W. Woods		
F. C. Fryer	G. D. Gray	L. Ford
W. Fitzgerald		D. Fraser
P. Burns		
E. Tyne, W. Shannon, C. J. Pearce, C. Ross,		
F. L. Murray, J. Lenanzen, C. Evans, H. Young.		

Auckland

J. Duffy		
F. R. Wilson	Hay-McKenzie	G. W. Smith
R. Wynyard		R. Magee
H. Kiernan		
G. Gillett,	J. R. Maquire,	C. Dunning,
G. W. Nicholson,	W. Cunningham,	A. R. Francis,
C. Seeling,		H. Haywood.

There were 7,000 present at Alexandra Park when the match started in dull and threatening weather. The game may be summed up in a few words: The Auckland forwards romped over the Canterbury vanguard throughout, and time after time swept from end to end of the field with irresistible rushes.

They often picked up the ball and, handling it cleanly, gave their backs opportunities for scoring. Auckland, however, did not make as much as they might of the run of the play, and did not shape as well as the Canterbury backs, who had no chance behind a hopelessly beaten pack.

Duffy was the bright star of the day; for Auckland, Nicholson, McKenzie, Wynyard (2) and Seeling scored tries. Duffy converted 4 tries, kicked a penalty and a goal from a mark. Fraser for Canterbury kicked a penalty and also a goal from a mark.

Taranaki sent up a fairly strong team to endeavour to secure the trophy on August 18th, 1906. The team was:

Taranaki

Hargreaves		
Dive	Cameron	Abbott
Hunter	Mynott	
Frewin		
J. Coleman,	Osborn,	Coleman,
Ryan,	Crowley,	Whittington,
Greenbank.		

There were no changes in the Auckland team from the previous match. The Taranaki forwards were much weightier than the Canterbury forwards who had done battle the week before, but they lacked the cleverness of the Auckland pack in the open.

The Taranaki backs were seen to better advantage in attacking movements than the local men, handling the ball cleanly and backing up splendidly, while time after time they turned defence into attack by intercepting and by making use of the mistakes of the home fifteen.

Although Auckland got to work early and quickly registered 18 points, from then on there wasn't much between the teams. For Auckland, Gillett, Magee and Seeling scored tries. Dufty converted three of these tries and kicked a goal from a mark. Don Cameron scored for Taranaki for Hargreaves to convert. Score 18-5.

The next challenge was from Southland on August 25th, 1906. The match was played in good weather before a crowd of 6,000. In point of weight the teams appeared to be evenly matched, and in the absence of Gillett, Hayward and Seeling, it was thought that the Southlanders would give the Blues a good game. They certainly proved themselves a solid, hard-working side, but lacked finish and cleverness, and although they frequently got close to the home goal-line, they seldom looked like scoring.

They had 12 points run up against them during the first half. The dashing play of the Auckland forwards gave them plenty of defensive work, while the backs of the defenders also shaped better. They flung the ball about to some purpose.

In the second half, with the wind, Southland started off well, but later the home forwards rallied, and Auckland had all the best of the rest of the spell, adding a further 18 points. Southland scored 12. Scorers for Auckland were Geo. Nicholson (3), G. W. Smith (2), H. Kiernan, W. E. McKenzie (2), F. R. Wilson, and W. Tyler.

Dufty was in rare form and converted 7 of these tries, and also dropped a goal. For Southland, F. Clark scored a try which D. Hamilton converted; the latter also kicked a penalty. Score 30-12.

The last Auckland engagement in 1906 was against Wellington on September 2nd, 1906. The defenders were successful by 11 to 5. R. Wynyard scored a try which the redoubtable Dufty converted. Dufty also kicked a mark from a penalty. For Wellington Mona Thomson scored a try which was converted by Billy Wallace.

Auckland thus entered the second year of its possession of the Shield and was called upon to face only three challenges, all of which were won.

Buller faced the defenders on July 13th., and Auckland had little difficulty in running out winners by 21 to nil. This score was made up of three tries by G. Murray, two by R. Wynyard and one by C. Dillamore. Not one of these tries was converted. Auckland sadly missed Dufty who had crossed over to League.

On August 10th, at Alexandra Park, Hawke's Bay made a bid for the Shield but went down by 12-3. Tries were scored by W. Haywood, G. Murray, Jack Hall and W. Wynyard; Tim McIntyre scored for the Bay. Again no Auckland tries were converted.

In July an All Black team went to Australia and in it were five great Auckland forwards—Cunningham, Francis, Gillett, Nicholson and Seeling. No other province had five just like these.

GLORIOUS INTER-ISLAND GAME OF 1907

The North and South match of 1907 must rank as one of the most perfect expositions of the Rugby game ever seen. The year was a fruitful one in New Zealand Rugby history. It saw the rise of several stars and the inter-island clash probably produced the finest football of the season.

This was copybook football played by teams of even calibre. Never was there such brilliance; no one dropped a pass; everyone dropped his man. It was bewildering, intoxicating Rugby. If 1903 was the zenith, then New Zealand was still on top of the curve; the downward trend was some years off.

For the North, the trio, Roberts, Mynott and Hunter, was still on deck; no three-man inside back combination ever appeared in so much big football as they. They had acquired a perfection of understanding and a rhythm which has never been equalled, with the incomparable Roberts, greatest of halves, as the spearhead.

The centre was a small fellow, Frank Mitchinson, perhaps the most meteoric of our players. He blazed like a comet across the Rugby firmament.

Billy Wallace was on one wing and Jack O'Leary on the other. George Spencer was fullback.

The only 1905 forward to appear was Jack O'Sullivan playing in the unusual position of lock. There were two North forwards who took the eye that day; they were Arthur Wilson of Wellington and J. D. Coleman of Taranaki. "Ranji" Wilson was one of our great forwards, especially good in the lineouts. "Ginger" Coleman was a utility player, equally good back or forward.

The South were stronger in the forwards than in the backs. Steve Casey, Alex McDonald and "Massa" Johnston turned out again, and the lock was Harry Paton, a big Dunedin club player with a wonderful boot.

The Southern insides were as a trio, stronger on defence than on attack. Paddy Burns was a fast nippy half, and with him were Roger Dansey of Otago University, and Alf Eckold of Dunedin Southern, dependable but somewhat slow—"kick to the line, Alfie" the Southern supporters used to exhort him.

A great threequarter line in Booth, Deans and Fryer showed substantial brilliance on the day. "Jum" Turtill was fullback, and left shortly for England to act in the same capacity for Baskerville's New Zealand League team.

North won by 11-nil. The match was played on June 9rd, and from it the team to tour Australia was chosen. It included five of the backs from Gallaher's 1905 team, in Roberts, Mynott, Hunter, Wallace and Booth. The others were G. Spencer, F. C. Fryer, F. Mitchinson and A. E. Eckold.

The forwards were again outstanding and included Gillett, Johnston, McDonald, Nicholson, O'Sullivan and Seeling. The others were A. R. Francis, J. Hogan, E. E. Hughes, H. Paton and J. C. Spencer.

Zenith was reached in 1908

In 1908 New Zealand's Rugby star was still in the ascendant. In fact it was doubtful if ever our football was at such a high mark, for in addition to many of the great names of 1905, a new galaxy of stars had arisen to carry on the tradition.

The visit of the Anglo-Welsh team saw the All Blacks at their superlative best. Of the illustrious 1905 All Blacks, Wallace, Stead, Mynott, Hunter, Roberts and Roberts and Deans in the backs, and Cunningham, Seeling, Glasgow, Casey, McDonald and Gillett of the forwards, were still playing big football.

The stars who had arisen since Gallaher's team were J. D. Coleman of Hawera, Don Cameron of Stratford, Frank Mitchinson of Wellington Ponoke, Frank Fryer of Christchurch, and George Gray and Paddy Burns of the Albion club, Christchurch.

Great new forwards were "Bolla" Francis of Auckland Ponsonby, "Ranji" Wilson of Wellington Athletic, A. Patterson of Dunedin Zingari, W. J. Reedy of Petone, and H. Haywood of Thames.

Coleman was a fine all-rounder; he was a strongly-built player, who was equally at home in several positions. He played for New Zealand at fullback, as wing-forward, and in the three-quarter line. He played halfback for Taranaki against Harding's team, partnering Hunter and Mynott.

I think he shares with George Gillett the mantle of the most versatile of All Blacks, having been a star in both backs and forwards.

Frank Mitchinson was a brilliant meteoric player who could dash slap through a team in a trice.

Some idea of the quality of New Zealand football at the time is given by the display of the All Blacks in the last test against the Anglo-Welsh at Auckland. As this is regarded as one of the classic expositions of Rugby given by a New Zealand side in its own country, the personnel

of the All Blacks is of more than usual interest.

Coleman (Taranaki) Mitchinson (Wellington)
Cameron (Taranaki) Deans (Canterbury)
Hunter (Taranaki) Stead (Southland)
Roberts (Wellington)
Gillett (Auckland), Ready (Wellington),
Glasgow (Southland), Francis (Auckland), Cunningham (Auckland), Patterson (Otago), Seeling
(Auckland), Haywood (Auckland).

From the kick-off there was only one side in it and that was New Zealand. They simply romped over the British in every department of the game and never once did the visitors look dangerous. It would be hard to say who played the best game for the Blacks, as every man was at the top of his form.

The Blacks threw the ball about in a marvellous manner; but they generally threw it in the right direction, and it is doubtful whether the tourists ever put in a harder afternoon's defensive work during their tour.

After the kick-off, in the first spell, the ball never once crossed the half-way mark to New Zealand territory. During the game the Englishmen forced eight times to the home team's once. Altogether there was a cleanness about the handling by the All Blacks and a dash in their play that was delightfully thrilling.

Roberts was the mainspring of the New Zealand backs and his play was a revelation to the Auckland patrons. His line kicking was a feature and his rush stopping and tackling were of a high order.

But it was in the versatility of his attack that he was most brilliant. With short or long passes, short punts or centering kicks, as occasion demanded, he never failed to set the attacking backs to work.

On the day there was not a weak player in the New Zealand side. Coleman at fullback was as safe as a church, and found the line with great long punts. Cameron and Mitchinson did some clever fielding, Mitchinson, in particular, scoring two tries with the ball passed to him at his feet.

Cameron had a dodgy run of the order normally associated with Hunter. Deans, at centre, had a style quite distinct from the wings; big and fast, he ran with his head back and was a most difficult man to stop with the ball. At times he threaded his way through half the team before being downed. Stead and Hunter at five-eighths, both played very well. Hunter delighted with electric swerving runs and general trickiness.

The New Zealand forwards were quite remarkable, for it must not be forgotten that they were one of the great sides we have produced. There was one fly in the ointment—New Zealand failed dismally in place-kicking and, of the nine tries, only one was converted, and this by Coleman.



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Francis, Gillett, Cameron, Roberts, Cunningham and Glasgow all had a go. What a score it would have been had they had a goal-kicker.

At the dinner after the game, the popular manager of the British team, George Harnett, said they had seen "some of the finest scenery,

some of the finest football, and some of the finest people in the world". Laxon, the Cambridge stand-off half said, in speaking of New Zealand Rugby, that "New Zealanders were the unquestioned champions of the world, and no one could approach the faultless and magnificent display of that day".

AUCKLAND CONTINUES ITS WINNING WAY

Auckland province defeated Harding's team by 11 to nil. They were clearly superior, especially in the forwards.

The first of the season's challenges for the Shield came from Marlborough, who were defeated by 32 to nil. This was on the 8th August, 1908. Tries were scored by E. Coote (two), F. Wilson, R. Magee, A. H. Francis, G. Murray, and C. E. Seeling. Magee converted four tries and kicked a goal from a mark.

The next fixture of the Shield was on August 15th, when Wellington once again took the field with the following team:

	J. Ryan	
A. Evanson	F. Mitchinson	J. McGee
H. McLeod	F. Roberts	
	C. Green	
W. J. Hardham, G. Hunter, T. Trezise, A. C. Wilson, Arthur Wilson, D. Rush, W. F. Alexander and H. Dewar.		

Auckland

	A. Renwick	
F. Wilson	G. Murray	W. Johnston
R. Magee	G. Bater	
	J. Morse	
G. Gillett, J. Maguire, F. Herring, A. H. Francis, W. Cunningham, G. Nicholson, C. Seeling and H. Haywood.		

Once again, the Auckland forwards carried too many guns for the challengers who were somewhat easily defeated by 24 to 3. For Auckland G. Baxter (two), G. Murray (two), and G. W. Nicholson scored tries. Magee converted three tried and kicked a good goal from a mark. W. F. Alexander scored for Wellington.

The appearance of Clem Green, the Petone halfback, showed what a high opinion the Wellington selectors had of him. They gave him a run at half, and put Freddy Roberts at five-eighths. Green never played for New Zealand, but, oddly enough, played for both islands. In 1909 he played for the North with Mitchinson and J. O'Leary behind him. South won by 19-11.

Green went to Westport later in 1909, and was chosen as half for the South, with G. D. Gray and G. Coles of Timaru as five-eighths. South won by 14 to 10, and it was Green's game.

He scored two tries and his sharp runs from the scrums were hard to stop.

At the time he made a great impression on everybody and must be accounted very unlucky in not getting his New Zealand cap; but he was living in a period in which New Zealand was unusually rich in halves; for, in addition to the monumental Fred Roberts, there were E. J. Roberts (Wellington), P. J. Burns and H. M. Taylor (Canterbury) and C. Brown (Taranaki), all of whom appeared in the inter-Island games between 1909 and 1914.

Auckland played two more games for the Shield in 1908, and defeated Taranaki by 9-0 on August 29th. G. Murray scored a try, as did George Gillett, who also kicked a penalty.

The last game was against Otago on September 12th 1908, and the score was eleven to five in favour of the defenders. G. Baxter, J. Morse and G. Murray scored tries, one of which R. Magee converted. McDonald scored for Otago and Paton converted.

There were several well-known figures in this Otago team. At fullback was J. N. Clarke, later deputy-Mayor of Christchurch, in the forwards were Paton and Patterson, two very fine forwards, and Casey and McDonald of Gallaher's team. On the way up, Otago had played a drawn game with Canterbury, each side scoring eight points.

This match was notable as being the last appearance of Bob Deans, the Canterbury captain, who died a few weeks later. He was only 24, but few players have ever made such a great name and have been so much mourned.

This year was a comparatively uneventful one in New Zealand Rugby. There was a crisis in Auckland where the opinion had been gradually forcing itself on the minds of the Rugby patrons that the district scheme had failed to give entertaining football matches. The man in the street had been saying this for years.

It had been proved that there was a great football public in Auckland, for 8000 people witnessed the first game between Ponsonby and City. It was held that the majority of people who deserved to see good football were dissatisfied with the present system as a financial proposition; they said it was bad compared with the club

system in Wellington, where that season club gates had averaged £100 as against £40 in Auckland.

Many footballers were bachelors, living an itinerant life, and the district boundary was no bar to them, as they could, before the appointed time, move into the district for which they wished to play. The matter was discussed at a special meeting of the Auckland Rugby Union held on October 6th.

Mr. A. E. Devore was president of the Union. The abolition of the district scheme was proposed as an amendment to a proposition that the residential qualifications be more difficult. The meeting decided to recommend that the qualification be extended from four to twelve months.

Some idea of the strength of Auckland Rugby may be gained from the visit to Sydney of the crack Ponsonby team of 1909. They were generally rated as the best club team in New Zealand in 1909.

Ponsonby had a bustling set of forwards led by Charlie Savory, Jack Hall and George Gillett. Their first engagement in Sydney was against a strong metropolitan side; they had arrived only a few hours previously, after a rough passage, but they wasted no time.

Within a few minutes of the start, Murray picked up the ball, passed to Bates, and on to Savory, who scored. O'Leary converted. They ran out winners by 13 to 9. In a return match on August 7th, Metropolitan turned the tables by winning by 13 to 9.

The match against Sydney premiers, Newton, was looked upon as an unofficial championship of Australasia. The great traveller, Ernie Booth, was custodian for Newton, but had to leave the field in the second spell because of injuries. Ponsonby won by 14-6.

The Auckland representatives made one of their rare tours in 1909. They opened their campaign with a match against Marlborough at Blenheim. The result was a great surprise for they were beaten 8-3; not many people seem to have heard of this defeat. Seeling scored for Auckland, Nolan scored for Marlborough. Church converted this try and kicked a penalty goal.

The winners played a vigorous game in the forwards and their backs were always up with play; they had as their captain a player of rare quality in Charles Manning, who should have gone far—a most accomplished footballer.

The Aucklanders next tried conclusions with Wellington and were somewhat lucky to win by 3 points to nil. On the way home they went down to Taranaki by 6 to 3. The Taranaki backs were quite superior to Auckland's and on the whole the Taranaki forwards held Auckland, but were lacking in the finer points of the game. Don Cameron scored two brilliant tries for Taranaki.

There was only one challenge for the Shield in 1909 and this came from Taranaki. The game took place on September 11th at Auckland. The weather was fine, and 6000 saw the game. Auckland, playing with the wind in the first spell, scored two tries, Sellars and Murray touching down.

Early in the second spell, the challengers became aggressive, but Auckland's defences were equal to the strain. Auckland's additional scores comprised four unconverted tries by Haywood, O'Leary and A. J. McGregor.

Taranaki points were the result of a most sensational try, scored by Don Cameron, who ran from near mid-field and beat practically the whole of the Auckland back division. Dive converted. Auckland 18, Taranaki 5.

But for Auckland there was no magic in the Shield. They hadn't produced an entrepreneur like Norman McKenzie to rub the magic lamp, and the arguments at a meeting of the Auckland Union have often been heard over the years.

Mr. A. E. Devore, the Auckland president, said he thought it would be a good thing if someone took the Ranfurly Shield and lost it on the way to Wellington. The general trend of the discussion was on the question of how to graciously get rid of the Shield, for it had adversely affected club football, and was therefore detrimental to the sport.

Among suggestions made was one that the Shield should be handed back to the New Zealand Rugby Union to be kept, and not competed for, over a period of three or five years. Finally it was decided to ask the Auckland Union delegates to the annual meeting of the New Zealand Union to vote on a proposal limiting the number of Shield matches to two in each season.

It can thus be seen that on one was very enamoured of the Shield. It took the great McKenzie with his remarkable Hawke's Bay team of 1922-26 to make it the most sought-after trophy in the whole Rugby world.

AN AMERICAN TEAM IN 1910

THE year 1910, too, was an eventful one in New Zealand Rugby. An American University team toured Australia and New Zealand. A Maori team visited Australia, as did an All Black team under the captaincy of Freddy Roberts.

The Americans were students with several years' Rugby experience and did extremely well, all things being considered. Three years later, when George Mason took his New Zealand team to California, there was little trace of the form shown by the Americans of 1910.

The Americans opened their campaign against Sydney University and were beaten by 17-6. They were not impressive, but, in the return game, showed improvement and were narrowly defeated by 10-9, their score consisting of three unconverted tries.

Their next football fixture was against Stead's Maoris, then in Sydney, and they continued to show improvement. Maoris 14, Universities 11. They surprised the critics by their showing. It was hard to believe that they were the same team who had played so ordinarily a few days before, when they appeared to be all at sea.

Against the Maoris, all this was rectified, the whole side playing exceedingly well. There were forward rushes worthy of any team, and their rucking was excellent. The passing out to the backs, and the manner in which they threw the ball to one another, dispelled the idea that their handling was reckless or erratic.

They then defeated a Hunter River side by 10-0, and, on the last match of the tour, they played a strong Metropolitan side and showed definitely their best form of the tour. The game which ended in a draw, 8 points all, was open and willing throughout.

Then they crossed the Tasman.

In their first match they were somewhat easily beaten by a strong Wellington team by 22-nil, but held Otago to a close 9-3 game. I well remember the game against Canterbury, the ground was very wet, but the form they showed was sufficient to indicate that in a few years, they could become formidable rivals to New Zealand's best.

They were particularly good in the forwards, especially in the scrums. I remember Jack Mahoney, one of the Canterbury forwards, saying as he came off, that he was black and blue all over; he'd never played in such a hard game.

The Canterbury back division that day comprised Burns, Weston, Gray, Fuller and Fryer, but they were all at sixes and sevens, upset apparently by the unorthodoxy of the Americans.

Then came the Auckland game. David Gallaher spent a considerable time coaching the

American team, and they responded brilliantly, managing to draw with the Ranfurly Shield holders, each side scoring 13 points.

Stewart opened the scoring for Auckland with a try which O'Leary converted; then Phleger scored for America for Brown to convert. Stewart scored again before half-time. In the second half, Tom Wilkes scored, and O'Leary again converted.

Just before the call of time Cerf, the American five-eighth, set his backs in motion, and Allan expertly drew the defence to send Kern over under the posts; Brown converted. Auckland 13, Universities 13.

Dr. Burns, at the function after the game said: "See here, I want to send a message to the Rugby people of New Zealand. Tell them we have had a right good time, and we can speak of their hospitalities and receptions only in superlatives".

Mr. Schaefer, coach of the team, in speaking of the growth of the game in California, said that they would probably obtain the services of a New Zealand coach the next year. They were going to adopt the 2-3-2 formation, and, when they came back to New Zealand in three years' time, New Zealand would have to put their best teams in the field.

I believe that Mr. Schaefer's prediction could well have been fulfilled, but it was not to be. A year or two later, an Australian team toured California and won all its games by wide margins. The trouble was that the game had not progressed, almost entirely because of the stranglehold of the American coaches. They were adepts at coaching the American game, but knew nothing of Rugby, and persisted in interpreting Rugby rules as if they were dealing with the American gridiron game.

They did not get down to the fundamentals of the Rugby game. It is true that they had D. B. Carroll, an Australian coach, at one of the colleges, but he could not break through the American bias.

My friend George Mason, who managed the 1913 New Zealanders in California, used to shake his head mournfully, and say how different it might have been. In 1913 the Americans appeared to have lost all the Rugby sense which the Americans tourists displayed in 1910 in New Zealand. The New Zealand line was hardly ever menaced, and a measure of New Zealand's superiority may be gained from the match records; in sixteen games New Zealand scored 610 points with only a try and a penalty goal against them.

Had the Americans engaged David Gallaher for a season or so, they would now have been a power in the Rugby world. Instead, McDonald's



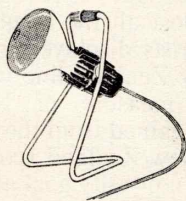
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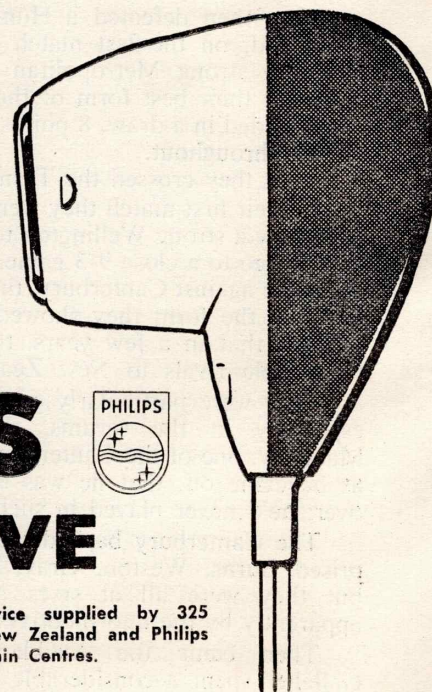


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team was one of New Zealand's great combinations, and simply mowed down the opposition. It would have been wiser to have sent a colts team on this missionary effort, instead of a side which would have taken the greatest team in the world to defeat.

The 1910 Maori team was the first combination to go overseas under the auspices of the newly formed Maori Advisory Board. It was a strong combination, equally powerful back and forward.

Billy Stead, the old 1905 five-eighth was the star back. The halfback was Sammy Piki of Christchurch. In a strong side the prominent backs were R. Dansey of Otago, H. Harrison of Auckland, C. Ryland and A. P. Kaipara of Poverty Bay.

Cunningham, the veteran Auckland, locked the pack, of whom the most prominent were J. H. Hall of Auckland, H. Tamu of Taranaki, G. M. Sellars of Auckland, W. Winiata of Horowhenua and P. Warbrick of Auckland.

This team did fairly well in Australia, winning all but two matches. They went down to New South Wales by 11 to nil and 17-13, and in a further eight games in New Zealand they went down to Auckland by 14 to 6, and to Southland by 6-3.

One of their best exhibitions was against Otago, whom they defeated by 17 to 8. Here is an extract from the account of the game: "The Maoris achieved quite a brilliant success, putting up a clever and remarkably clean exhibition of football. The unexpected dash and resourcefulness of their backs, both on attack and defence, aroused the enthusiasm of the spectators, while their forwards were at times as good as their backs and never let them down".

There was one player of the team who deserves a special word and that was Kaipara. He was one of the most meteoric backs the game has produced, and was renowned for his brilliant dashing runs.

And a word about the 1910 All Blacks. Somehow they seemed to lack the glamour of their predecessors. Perhaps we were going off a little. J. O'Leary of Auckland was fullback and the threequarters were Frank Mitchinson and Jimmy Ryan of Wellington, Jack Stohr of Taranaki, Frank Wilson of Auckland and the two Canterbury men Billy Mitchell and Paddy Burns. The latter was usually a halfback, but was one of the successes of the side as a threequarter.

The inside backs were Freddy Roberts, Simon Mynott of Taranaki, and Billy Fuller of Canterbury.

The best of the forwards were Harry Paton, "Banjo" Patterson and Fred Ivemay of Otago, Arthur Wilson of Wellington and "Boller" Francis of Auckland.

This was only a short tour of seven games. They won the rubber against Australia, losing one game by 11 points to nil.

The three touring teams were all in Sydney during June, 1910, and they provided one of the biggest Rugby features in the history of the game. The Maoris were the first to put in an appearance on June 3rd, and were followed by the All Blacks three days later, and by the American Universities on the 13th of June.

There never was such a succession of parties, picnics and functions of all kinds. And the big day was the 15th June when Australia played New Zealand, the latter running out winners by 6 to nil. The curtain raiser was provided by the Maoris and the American Universities in which the score was 14-11 in favour of the Maoris.

But though the organisers of this fine festival expected great things they were disappointed. The Northern Union team from England was in Australia and was drawing great crowds; the new code appeared to suit the Australians and the public were drawn away from Rugby. Strangely enough, it was New Zealand who had started the game going in Australia.

A young man in Wellington, A. H. Baskerville, conceived the idea of sending a professional team to England in 1907. He was helped in his task by George Smith, the 1905 wing-threequarter, and Messrs. J. J. Giltinan and Victor Trumper of Sydney.

In his "Old Golds" Baskerville had many fine players including Duncan McGregor, Johnston and Smith of Gallaher's team. They played several matches in Australia, and met with immediate success; all things being considered, they did very well in England, and emphasised the point often made by New Zealand that the 1905 All Black team did not include all the best of the country's talent.

The influence of these teams is referred to by Lance Todd, one of Baskerville's team, on his return from several years playing Union in England:

"The Northern Union game has made tremendous strides, and in the last few years clubs have more than trebled their membership; and now some of them have two and three thousand members. This state of things, strange to say, was brought about in a great measure by the visit of the Amateur All Blacks. Before their visit people were tired of Rugby, which was brought about by the disappointing tactics displayed by the teams, who, once they got ahead, kicked for the line. The public gradually drifted away to the Association game.

"The visit of the All Black Amateurs changed all this, and revived interest in Rugby, and people went to see them out of curiosity; and, when the All Black professionals came along, they went to see them also."

Baskerville's team took with them one Australian in the person of H. H. Messenger. "Dally" was perhaps the greatest drawcard the Rugby game produced. He starred in both codes and, with his dazzling will-of-the-wisp play and wonderful kicking, was attractive in the extreme.

Sullivan, the Northern Union player, is reputed to have kicked some 2665 goals in his career—this is stupendous! But Messenger not only kicked magnificent goals but also scored brilliant tries. In the 1911 season, for instance, in six games against Queensland and New Zealand at League he scored 10 tries, converted 32, kicked 7 penalty goals, and a goal from the field—a total of 110 points.

The decade from 1910 onwards was to see a decline in the interest in Rugby in Australia. In fact, during the war adult competitive Rugby in Australia was as dead as the dodo. The League was enabled to carry on because there was no conscription.

But Rugby rose, phoenix-like, from the ashes because of two things. First, Rugby is the soldier's game, and was played widely in both the N.Z.E.F. and the Australian Imperial Force. The returning Australian army team, who were the only ones to beat New Zealand in the King's Cup series, were a great fillip on their return. But a second influence was the great public schools of New South Wales, an unequalled nursery.

Another thing which should be mentioned in passing is that New Zealand's best efforts have, in the main, been made on soft grounds. Our

style of Rugby requires soft grounds for the forwards to get a toe hold when they push, and for the backs to make effective swerves and cork-screw runs. Hard grounds suit the Australians. Jimmy Duncan was forthright about this. The old master said:

"No, I don't think Australians will ever equal New Zealanders at football, and I'll tell you the reason—the hard grounds in Australia, that's the reason.

"On that Sydney ground a man can't throw himself about; he can't stand being knocked about; and either he gets cautious, or he gets such a doing that he has to retire just when he was turning out a player.

"I remember the first match I played on that Sydney ground; I did nothing out of the ordinary, but the next day I was stiff with bruises; when you've been thrown a few times on your hip or shoulder on that ground you feel pretty bad.

"It struck all our chaps the same way. The first match they play a lively game, just as they do in New Zealand, not caring how they fall but the second match you see them quite different; they dodge the falls; they've been shaken up too much.

"So in Australia, to my mind, the men can't last long enough to get a real knowledge of the game. It's not coaching—you can coach any number of players if you have time—It's the hard ground. In New Zealand we fall softer, and so can afford to take more risks, and, you've got to take risks in football." I think things have changed since Jimmy's day.

IN 1910 THE GAME STARTED TO DECLINE

On August 11th Auckland faced Hawke's Bay in the first challenge for 1910.

Most of the first spell was played in driving showers of rain, and the general impression was that the holders would have to improve if they were to retain the Shield. The criticism was that they showed no combination, that their passing rushes were never well executed, and that the pack displayed none of their old-time drive and understanding of each other's purpose.

The Hawke's Bay team, on the other hand, was surprisingly good, their backs being sure tacklers. Fitzgerald at full, Russell at three-quarter, and Kenyon and Siddels at five-eighths—all were prominent. In the forwards Scullen, Evans and Munro showed up.

Tries were scored for Auckland by Magee, Wylie and Morse, of which Cunningham con-

verted one. McEwan scored for the Bay.—Auckland 11, Hawke's Bay 3.

The next challenge came from Wellington and it was very closely fought, each side scoring three points. The Auckland team:

J. D. Stewart	J. O'Leary	
T. Wilkes	R. Magee	G. Murray
	G. Morse	J. Power
J. Hall, G. Tyler, G. M. Sellars, A. H. Francis, W. Cunningham, J. Maguire, H. Hayward, J. Wylie.		

All the forwards in this side were All Blacks, or subsequently capped, except Hall, who played for the Maoris.

The Wellington backs were a particularly strong set, with the Oriental back combination of Roberts, McLeod and Kinvig, together with P.

Ryan, Evenson and Mitchinson. Auckland had the advantage of wind and sun which helped them enormously, but actually Wellington did better in the first spell.

The changing of ends made a remarkable difference in the kicking by the visitors' backs. They threw the ball about, but the defenders' rearguard showed a sound defence though their attack was not dangerous. The Auckland forwards were, however, going very well, and they beat the Wellington pack in all types of play.

The Wellington pack on the day included E. Perry, J. A. Bruce, Harold Avery, J. E. Moffitt and H. Elliot.

In the first spell O'Leary opened the score for Auckland with a great goal from half-way. There was a dramatic last five minutes. The ball had found touch at half-way and from the resulting line-out the home forwards broke through with the ball at their toes. The Wellington line was in grave danger, Mitchinson just saving it with a speculator. A free kick gave the challengers some relief, but Francis, Cunningham, Hayward and company burst through.

It was at this stage that Avery started things moving for Wellington. At half-way he whipped the ball out to Freddy Roberts, and the old master, realising his opportunity, clapped on the

pace and eluded a dozen opponents to score a great try. Gordon Kinvig failed to improve. Auckland 3, Wellington 3.

There were two new faces in this game: Tom Wilkes and Gordon Kinvig. Both represented the North Island, Wilkes in 1909, Kinvig in 1911. I knew them both. Kinvig went to Boys' High School, Christchurch, and before going to Wellington, he played for our local Phillipstown club, which included Eric Willcox, Percy Hooper, George Dixon, Percy Wilson and Dick Moloney.

The last time I saw Kinvig was at Etaples when I was on my way to the training battalion at Oxford. Gordon, who was an officer in the Wellington Infantry, was killed in July 1917. He was handsome to look at and handsome in every way.

Tom Wilkes commanded B Company, Second New Zealand Rifle Brigade, when we went into the line at Armentieres. He finished up as a Group Captain in the R.N.Z.A.F.

The third Shield challenge in 1910 was from Taranaki, but this was somewhat easily disposed of, Auckland winning by 16 points to 9. H. Harrison and G. Tyler scored tries. J. O'Leary converted a try and kicked two penalties, and R. Magee converted a try. For Taranaki, J. Stohr kicked a penalty goal and a goal from a mark.

CANTERBURY'S FIRST GREAT CHALLENGE

It was left to Canterbury to provide the most exciting bid for the Shield up to that time. It was exciting because the men from the plains led right up to the final ten minutes. The crowd was in a ferment all through.

Canterbury was a young side, and not much was expected of it. But as has often happened in that province's Shield history, the challengers were not put off by the great reputation of the defenders.

Canterbury

	A. E. Doell	
D. Guthrie	G. D. Gray	W. Mitchell
L. Hutchings	P. Cleary	
	H. M. Taylor	
H. V. Murray,	L. Oram,	C. F. Humphreys,
W. Daily,	E. Hassell,	T. Bain,
		W. Shadbolt,
		W. Auld.

Auckland

	J. O'Leary	
H. Harrison	J. Walker	O. Wolfgramm
R. Magee	J. Power	
	A. Ottersen	
G. Tyler,	J. Hall,	G. Sellars,
A. H. Francis,	W. Cunningham,	H. Hayward,
J. Wylie,	J. Maguire.	

This was the last of the famous Auckland

forward sides, and Canterbury had the distinction of subduing a remarkable vanguard. Played in glorious weather before 10,000 people, this game was declared one of the most exciting encounters ever witnessed in the Queen City. It was a great thrill!

Early in the first spell, Doell potted a magnificent field goal for Canterbury, and there was no further score until ten minutes before time, when Harrison scored an unconverted try.

Canterbury at this stage led 4-3, and the Auckland forwards were playing a desperate game. Two minutes before time, Wylie scored. Here is a Press Association extract:

The Auckland forwards were very rough and the visitors suffered, Bain having to leave the field, while quite a long stoppage was occasioned when Hutchings was hurt.

"Auckland still held the Shield; there was nothing on form to give a line as to the probable result, but Aucklanders generally expected a comfortable win. There was not much comfort in it. The visitors were considerably the lighter side, but they ran like racehorses, took the ball splendidly, and made no mistakes at all, while the Auckland back division with the exception of O'Leary and Walker, could do nothing right."

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In the first half, Canterbury were clearly on top, and it was not until near the end that the defenders had the best of it. With defeat in prospect, they came on like tigers, with that old characteristic of theirs—of playing a faster game at the end—a characteristic, by the way, showed by the Canterbury Shield pack of 1954, who, in my opinion, played in very much the same fashion as the old Auckland sets.

The scene at the end of the game when Wylie scored was remarkable.

"It is doubtful if there has ever been a more exciting finish to a Shield game, and when Wylie scored the try which made the Shield safe, for another year at least, the excitement was intense, the crowd going mad, and staid old citizens were seen throwing their hats and sticks in the air. Twice the game had to be stopped to clear the line.

"Canterbury made a great fight, and it was indeed cruel, when the cup of victory seemed within their grasp, to have it rudely snatched away in the closing of an historic struggle. In the first ten minutes, Auckland seemed the better side, but then the visitors found their feet and they gave a fine, fast exhibition, and, until the final stages, when the pace told its tale, they had all the best of the game.

"In the first half, Auckland forwards played a lot to their backs, but their handling was very faulty, and the visitors nipped in time and time again, and came down the field at a great rate,

but were unlucky not to cross the line."

Auckland critics were very impressed with the Canterbury five-eighths, Hutchings and Cleary, and thought that the latter was the best man seen in the position for a long time. They particularly liked Dave Guthrie, a very dashing wing, who scored tries in the Jarden manner. I well remember how he ran bang through Merivale three times in a premiership final, around about 1913 I think.

All the Canterbury backs were accomplished. Billy Mitchell had just returned from a great run with the All Blacks in Australia, George Gay and Harry Taylor went to California with McDonald's 1913 team.

In a grand fighting pack, Harold Murray was the most brilliant, closely followed by Ed. Hassell and W. Shadbolt.

Then there was Cecil Humphries; he had a fine war record. On the day of Messines behind our lines, Jack Langridge, an old Canterbury College forward, rushed up to me and shouted: "Here comes Cecil Humphreys leading his unit!" Humphreys came over the hill, leading a column of troops, and drew up and spoke to us. He had joined the Manchesters in 1914 as a private, and was now a Lt. Colonel with the D.S.O. He was to fall in the March retreat.

In 1911 only two Shield matches were played, Auckland resisting challenges from South Auckland and Poverty Bay by 21-5 and 29-10 respectively.

AUCKLAND SUPERIORITY SHOWS SHARP DECLINE

Auckland faced but three challenges in 1912 and just scraped home in all three. Taranaki were first in the field with a strong combination:

Taranaki

J. D. Coleman
D. Cameron R. W. Roberts J. Stohr
J. McLeod S. Cameron
C. Brown
R. Taylor, H. Dewar, M. Cain, J. Kissick, G. Hawkins, H. Whittington, O. Young, A. Smith.

Auckland

J. O'Leary
A. J. McGregor, J. P. Stewart, J. V. McKay
K. Ifwerson L. Weston
T. C. Webb
J. Hall, G. Sellers, W. Cunningham, J. Bruce, J. Barrett, M. Carroll, T. Tresize, A. C. Wilson.
There were two important new faces in this game. Simon Mynott had retired and his place

was taken by an up-and-coming young five-eighth from the Waimate Club, in Sam Cameron. Clifton Webb, the small Auckland half-back, has been very much in the news for he was the New Zealand High Commissioner in London, and vested with almost ambassadorial powers. Auckland won by 6 points to 5, after a keenly contested match, interspersed with many flashes of brilliant play.

The first try came from a set scrum right in front of the Taranaki goal-line. The ball came to Webb, to Stewart, who threw out a long pass to Macky and that great wing touched down. Ifwerson failed with the kick but before half-time he put the ball between the uprights from a free kick.

On resuming Taranaki rushed play into the Auckland twenty-five but their forwards were completely overshadowed, the home vanguard keeping up the pressure. The challengers' backs

then swung into action, McLeod scoring and Franklin converting—the latter having come on in Taylor's place.

On August 24th Wellington challenged, and, in some quarters, this match is claimed to be important on the grounds that each side fielded the strongest team that ever represented it.

This is very much open to doubt when one thinks of the truly wonderful forward teams which Auckland had fielded in the years just previously—the Nicholson, Gillett, Francis, Hayward era. The Auckland team was the same one which had defeated Taranaki the week previously.

Wellington had a very strong fifteen, including F. Roberts, C. L. Ramsden, T. M. Grace, G. McKenzie, E. Ryan, E. Roberts, A. Wilson, R. Paton, J. Skinner, H. Elliott, C. Gillespie and J. A. Bruce.

This team came north with a great reputation, but the visitors were beaten in every department of the game. The Auckland team, as a whole, played magnificently and there were only a couple of occasions during the game when their line was in anything like danger.

Auckland's four tries were all scored by Macky, who was the hero of the game. At the finish he was carried off the field shoulder high. This was the last of the great displays by Auckland in defence of the Shield. Auckland 12, Wellington nil.

Two weeks later, they faced a very strong challenge from Otago, who had come up unhonoured and unsung. They were lucky to make a draw of 5-all. Otago had been defeated by Canterbury a few days previously, and no one was quite prepared to see them make such an all-out bid.

Otago

	E. Watson	
J. Cuthill	E. Cockcroft	A. Chambers
A. Eckhold	W. Alexander	
	W. Dryden	

J. Douglas, J. Graham, P. Sheehan, J. Irvine, S. Casey, W. Russell, T. Smith, G. McKeller.

Paddy Sheehan, the popular Auckland columnist of today, was captain.

The scoring was limited. Otago drew first blood. Auckland pressed early in the piece until the Otago forwards cleared with a dashing rush.

Then a good kick by Cockcroft brought play to the Auckland twenty-five, where, from a scramble near the line, Sheehan dashed over for Douglas to convert. This was after 20 minutes' play. Otago led to the last quarter, when, from mid-field, Webb, getting possession, started his backs in motion and a nice piece of passing saw Macky touch down, Walshe converting.

That the Otago form was no fluke was amply

demonstrated when the southern team met Taranaki at Hawera. Here again the glorious uncertainty of football was once again shown. Otago defeated Taranaki by 18-11, and, a few days later Taranaki accounted for Canterbury 21-nil.

The ground at Hawera was greasy and, as a consequence, the ball was not easy to manipulate. Yet scarcely has there ever been such an exciting duel in goal-kicking, with Cockcroft in superb form for Otago and Stohr in high fettle for Taranaki.

Taranaki kicked off, and from a line-out Charley Brown marked. Stohr took the kick and from two yards inside half-way landed a magnificent goal. Otago replied when Smith, picking up from a scrum, transferred to Cuthill who simply galloped through and scored wide out. Cockcroft missed that one.

Ten minutes later Dryden took a mark at half-way and Cockcroft landed a great goal. Otago 6, Taranaki 3. Next Taranaki were penalised for offside play and again Cockcroft sent the ball spinning between the uprights. The Otago forwards were now going great guns, and in one of their numerous forays into enemy territory, Paddy Sheehan bored his way over. Eckhold failed to add the extra points. At half-time Otago led 12-3.

A quarter of an hour after resumption the Taranaki forwards came back with a great dash, and Sam Cameron hurled himself across. Stohr goaled. Cockcroft from half-way next landed a beautiful goal, and just before time the home team were awarded a penalty, and Cockcroft topped off a great kicking day by landing another fine one. Otago 18, Taranaki 8. Stohr ended a sensational game by emulating the tall Otago centre, and he too landed a beautiful goal. Otago 18, Taranaki 11.

Auckland, in the year 1913, finally lost the Ranfurly Shield to Taranaki. The writing had been on the wall for a long time, for the northerners were just scraping home in game after game.

The first game against Wellington requires but little description. It was played in heavy rain and fresh wind. At first Wellington played up well with the wind and put plenty of dash into their work.

In the second spell, their backs failed to handle with any degree of safety, and the team just failed by 6-5. L. Nesbitt scored a try and J. O'Leary kicked a goal for Auckland. For Wellington, F. Mitchinson a try, converted by A. Evenson.

On August 9th the defenders had little difficulty in disposing of Poverty Bay by 27 to 3.

AUCKLAND LOSES TO TARANAKI

A week later Taranaki came up with a very good all-round side and took the Shield. Auckland had held the Shield for eight seasons and had resisted, during that time, only 23 challenges.

This is quite remarkable. The great merit of the performance is in the fact that they held the trophy for such a long period. They called upon only 68 players. Hawke's Bay, holding the Shield from 1922 to 1926, called on 42 players; but it would appear to me that Auckland's record is the better in this regard, for in eight years there is a great wastage of players.

Anyway, Taranaki prevailed over Auckland, but only by 14 points to 11. For Taranaki Roberts (2), G. Loveridge and J. Prouse scored, and G. Hawkins converted a try. For Auckland W. Geddes, A. J. McGregor and L. Weston scored, with J. O'Leary a conversion.

A great era in New Zealand football was at an end.

Taranaki

L. Hill

Loveridge McLeod Stohr

S. Cameron D. Roberts

C. Brown

R. Taylor

Whittington, Cain, Tamu, Hawkins, Dewar, Ward, Prouse.

Taranaki had a short summer of success: On June 27 1914 they defeated Wanganui at Hawera by 17-3; then followed wins over Manawatu 11-3, Horowhenua by 14-3, and Wairarapa by 22-3.

On August 20th 1914, at New Plymouth, an unknown Canterbury team almost carried off the trophy, and, though putting up a better exposition of Rugby, just failed.

The grim shadow of war was now over the land, and footballers everywhere were rallying to the colours. Taranaki had lost several of her best players, and, realising perhaps that the southerners might prove a menace, they had the foresight to meet the Maunganui at Wellington, and this added to the team Dick Roberts and Mick Cain who had been touring in Australia with the 1914 All Blacks. The pair arrived just before the teams took the field and it was just as well they did, for their presence probably averted defeat.

Canterbury

A. Henry

A. McLeod R. Boag D. Guthrie

E. E. Crawshaw G. D. Gray

P. J. Amodeo

W. Cummings, E. Cummings, W. Maxwell, A. Fanning, H. Sime, E. Hassell, C. Hegarty, N. Carnegie.

Of these Alex Henry and Bill Cummings died within the last few years or so. Ernie Crawshaw, who is now a legendary figure in the minds of Old Boys of Christchurch Boys' High School, was playing particularly well at this juncture. He was a member of the Canterbury Regiment and died in action in October 1918. Dave Guthrie, another Old Boy, also displayed fine form; he died not long after the war, in which he served.

No one gave this team much chance, and one or two critics made unfortunate forecasts; but the team confounded everybody and played "one out of the box." The Canterbury men proved far more nimble than the home teams and it was only well through the second spell that the yellow forwards gained superiority.

The challengers owed much to the fine work of the forwards; it was a hard-driving, experienced pack, with the Merivale set, Hassell, Hegarty, Maxwell and Carnegie, and the Cummings brothers, Fanning and Sime all doing their best. The backs functioned smoothly, particularly the insides, with Amodeo, Gray and Crawshaw playing finished football.

Taranaki's score was made up of a try by Whittington and Stohr kicked a penalty goal. Hassell scored for Canterbury, and Crawshaw added the extra points. Taranaki 6, Canterbury 5.

A week later Southland made a strong challenge, and they were only staved off after a hard struggle by 6 to nil.

Then came the final Shield game for 1914, at Stratford, on September 10th. Wellington were the challengers. This was the Taranaki side:

J. Stohr

Don Cameron R. W. Roberts C. Whittingham

Sam Cameron J. D. Coleman

C. Brown

R. Taylor, M. Cain, H. Dewar, O. Young, R. Patterson, H. Whittingham, J. Kissick, J. Robertson.

This was thought generally to be one of the best sides ever to represent Taranaki. The Wellington touring side, which brought back the Shield, comprised the following:

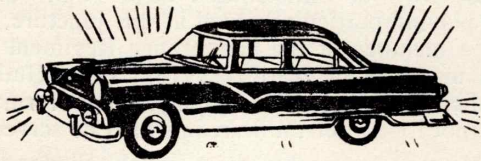
Backs: E. J. Roberts, J. T. Tilyard, E. Ryan, E. Fisher, A. C. Evenson, A. Algar, D. W. Madden.

Forwards: W. Francis, J. E. Moffitt, W. Ryan, S. D. Shearer, J. T. Twomey, W. J. Reidy, T. L. Dent and "Ranji" Wilson as captain.

Even so, there wasn't much in it. B. Algar scored a try, and potted a goal; E. Fisher scored a try which E. Roberts converted. For Taranaki R. Taylor scored and J. Stohr kicked a penalty. The score was 12-5.

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EFFECTS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

THE Great War of 1914-18 brought adult Rugby to a complete stop. This was in contrast to the Second World War, when the concentration of troops in New Zealand because of the Pacific war gave a great fillip to the game.

If, in the years following 1914, there was little football played in New Zealand, there was an immense amount of Rugby played in the New Zealand Division and in command depots in the United Kingdom. There were scores and scores of Rugby formations wearing the black jersey. The interest created was to send the game away to a great start when hostilities ceased.

From 1916 onwards the best footballers in New Zealand were gathered together, and there was always a first-class team to meet engagements. At times, these matches had to be postponed, for football was only a diversion, and the war had to go on; when there was a stunt on all hands stood by.

And so, in January 1919, a most important fixture was played which had a great bearing on the future of New Zealand Rugby.

The Trench team played the New Zealanders stationed in the United Kingdom.

New Zealand Trench Team

Bomb. C. H. Capper (N.Z.F.A.).
Rfm. W. A. Ford (N.Z. Rifle Brigade).
Pte. J. Stohr (N.Z.M.C.).
Bomb. G. Owles (N.Z.F.A.).
Cpl. G. A. Yardley (Auck. Infantry).
R.S.M. James Ryan (Otago Infantry).
Cpl. C. Brown (N.Z. Field Engineers).
Forwards—
Gnr. A. H. West (N.Z.F.A.).
Pte. E. A. Bellis (Otago Infantry).
Gnr. A. Gilchrist (N.Z.F.A.).
Gnr. S. J. Standen (N.Z.F.A.).
Pte. J. Douglas (Otago Infantry).
Gnr. A. A. Lucas (N.Z. Field Artillery).
Gnr. R. W. Bilkey (N.Z.F.A.).
Sgt. E. J. Naylor (Otago Infantry).

United Kingdom New Zealanders

Cpl. J. O'Brien (Headquarters).
Sgt. R. W. Storey (Sling).
Rfm. R. W. Roberts (Sling).
Lieut. E. Cockcroft (Canterbury Infantry).
Lieut. G. J. McNaught (N.Z. Machine Gun Corps).
Pte. W. L. Henry (Sling).
Sgt. F. Inns (Codford Command).
Forwards—
Sgt. Arthur Wilson (Brocton).
Bomb. E. W. Hassell (Headquarters).
Sgt. R. Fogarty (Brocton).
Cpl. V. Murray (Grantham).
Sapper J. A. Bruce (N.Z. Engineers Depot).

Pte. P. Allen (Sling).

Sapper J. Kissett (N.Z. Engineers Depot).

Sapper R. Sellars (Stevenage).

This was a most closely contested game, but with nothing much between the teams. The Trench team won by 5 points to 3. Bellis scored for Stohr to convert. For the United Kingdom side, "Ranji" Wilson a try.

Most of the personnel of the above teams played in the King's Cup series and other games; with the addition of Bomb. Ed Ryan, Rfm. W. R. Fea, Pte. D. M. Sandman, Cpl. H. G. Whittington, Pte. M. Cain, Sgt. F. P. Arnold and Pte. A. P. Singe.

On March 1st, 1919, at Swansea New Zealand won its first engagement against the Royal Air Force by 22 to 3 in the Cup series. A week later at Portsmouth the Canadian Forces were defeated by 11 to nil, and, on the same day at Bradford another New Zealand fifteen defeated Yorkshire by 44 to 5.

On March 19th at Twickenham in the Cup series, South Africa were met and defeated by 14-5. In this Springbok side were W. H. Townsend, F. W. Mellish and Boy Morkel, members of the 1921 side which toured New Zealand, and, on the same day at Cardiff, another New Zealand combination held Cardiff to a scoreless draw. There was no doubt about New Zealand's strength in those days.

In this South African fixture, the men from Africa looked like winning in the first spell, when St. Leger scored a try which was converted. Ford and Storey scored for New Zealand. In the second spell, the New Zealand forwards took charge and clinched the victory.

On April 5th at Edinburgh, New Zealand defeated the Mother Country by 6-3. This should have been the final of the King's Cup series, but four days later New Zealand went down to Australia at Bradford by 6-5, a great upset. This result brought the Mother Country and New Zealand all square again.

Now this Australian side had some quality. Beith was fullback. The threequarters were Carroll, Sutter, Pountney and Egan, and the halves Roberts and Flanagan. The forwards were Thomson, Cody, Dee, Dunn, Bradley, Watson, Clarkson and Morris.

This side, on its way home, had a substantial win over Natal by 34-3. It was a very important contribution, for it raised the standard of Rugby Union in Australia by playing important fixtures in New South Wales and Queensland. In the former state, the old game went away to a fine new start, but it was some time before it made headway in Queensland.

A few years later, a Queensland Rhodes scholar, Tom Lawton, arrived at Oxford and caused a sensation and a headache by announcing that he had played League—there was no Rugby Union club he could play for. This situation was ironed out in the end.

On April 15th, the Mother Country was met in the return game and this time won by 9-3; New Zealand thus won the King's Cup.

Further Silver Fern successes were a win over a French Army team at Twickenham by 20-3, and on April 19th the second team had a fine win over Neath by 15-9.

There were some interesting figures in the Mother Country side, especially in the forwards, which included Scottish internationals in R. A. Gallie, C. M. Ussher and A. D. Laurie, and the English caps, J. A. Pym, L. G. Brown and C. H. Pillman.

Brown, an Australian, had been at Oxford and was considered the finest forward for his weight ever seen at the University. The other forwards were Sergeant Jones of Aberavon, a Welsh cap, and Major P. H. Lawless.

The speedy back division included Barry Cumberledge (capped in 1920 for England) and J. C. M. Lewis (Wales 1912).

No one could begrudge victory for New Zealand, for they were without Fogarty for the last ten minutes. The Black forwards struck the keynote of the side's success, worked their hardest in the scrums, which their opponents did not do, and showed fine control of the ball in the rushes, led by Bellis, Kissick and Hassell. Singe at wing forward, one of the finds, harried Pym and Pillman, who rather fancied themselves as rovers.

Among the New Zealand backs, Storey carried off the honours with a spectacular try which turned the tables. Stohr was in exceptional form; his defence and uncanny prescience in anticipating the movements of the Mother Country three-quarters was of great service to his side.

The mana of New Zealand now stood high, and enormous interest centred in the fixture against Wales set down for April 21st, Easter Monday, at Swansea. Thousands of New Zealanders from depots, hospitals and training centres made their way to Swansea. This was to be the pay-off for 1905; great was the enthusiasm.

The Welsh Union chose a team members of which were accorded the status of having played in an international fixture. Here is the Welsh team:—

E. Davies (Maesteg)

J. Shea (Pill Harriers), M. Thomas (Bridgend), E. B. Rees (Swansea), F. J. Nicholas (Cardiff), J. Fowler (Llanelly), W. J. Martin (Newport), Glyn Stevens (Neath), Aaron Rees (Maesteg), J. Jones (Aberavon), W. Morris (Abertillery),

Rev. W. J. Havard (Llanelly), T. Parker (Swansea), J. Whitefield (Newport), Gwyn Francis (Llanelly).

Though the game was played in a crash of cheering, it was not in itself a good display. The play was mostly confined to tight scrums and occasional loose rushes. Wales opened the scoring when Shea, the right wing threequarter, landed a penalty goal. Stohr kicked two penalties for New Zealand, and the game ended 6-3 in New Zealand's favour. But for the thousands of eager New Zealanders, things fell somewhat flat. To even up for Bob Deans, we should have crossed their line.

The number one side crossed to Ireland, and defeated Queen's University by 18-0, and on the same day at Salisbury, the seconds defeated a United Services team by 20 to nil. A week later the seconds defeated Tredegar by 8-0, while on the same day the Tourists for South Africa, comprising most of the "A" team, defeated a French fifteen at Colombes by 16-10.

On May 5th, the seconds were narrowly defeated by Monmouthshire by 4-3. Their final game was against the Northern Command at Headingley in Yorkshire, won by them by 33 to nil.

New Zealand at the end of the war was still unquestionably the greatest Rugby playing nation. From January 25th to May 11th, New Zealand teams in England and France played thirty-eight games, drew 3, lost 2, and won 33. The only defeat sustained by the "A" team was at the hands of Australia.

The team to South Africa was chosen at the end of the King's Cup series. They were:—

J. G. O'Brien, W. A. Ford, E. W. King, R. W. Roberts, Ed. Ryan, James Ryan, J. Stohr, P. W. Storey, W. L. Henry, G. J. McNaught, W. R. Fea, Chas. Brown, D. M. Sandman. The forwards were: E. A. Bellis, J. A. Bruce, M. Cain, E. L. Cockroft, A. Gilchrist, R. Fogerty, E. W. Hassell, J. Kissick, A. A. Lucas, J. E. Moffitt, E. J. Naylor, A. P. Singe, S. J. Standen, A. H. West and H. G. Whittington.

Of the party, King, McNaught and Moffitt were lieutenants, and James Ryan was a sergeant-major. All the others were either sergeants or staff-sergeants.

They had a most efficient and popular manager in Lieut. R. W. Baumgart, of the Otago Mounted Rifles. This touring side, 28 strong, contained 21 All Blacks.

They started off their tour by crossing to France, where, on May 8th, they met the Selection Francais at Pau, and were victorious by 16-6. They had already defeated a French fifteen at Colombes, as already stated. The return match at Toulouse against the Selection Francais was a close affair, New Zealand just heading them off by 14-13.

NEW ZEALAND INVADES SOUTH AFRICA

New Zealand football is of older vintage than that of South Africa. Really speaking, Rugby at the Cape only got under way in 1891. This was the year of the visit of the first English teams. It was the Western Province Rugby Union which invited the British players after the visit of Major Wharton's 1888-9 cricket team to the Union had given impetus to the idea to invite British Rugby players to South Africa.

It seemed at first that the project would fall through owing to wrangling over guarantees, but it was Cecil Rhodes, then Prime Minister at the Cape, who stepped into the breach and made the tour a certainty.

This British team, captained by W. E. MacLagan, had on board with them a handsome cup presented to them by Sir Donald Currie, the great ship owner, who made it known that he wished his cup to be presented to the South African side doing best against the British. Griqualand West were the first holders of the Cup, but when it was first put up for competition, Western Provinces won it and with a few exceptions have won it ever since.

MacLagan's team contained eight internationals: MacLagan himself, a threequarter, first played for Scotland in 1879, and thereafter in every season until 1890. The famous Alan Rotheram, who developed halfback play, was one of the halves. In the forwards W. E. Bromet, Oxford University and England, had toured New Zealand with Stoddart's team in 1889.

South African Rugby was in its swaddling clothes in 1891, for MacLagan's team won all its nineteen games, scoring 224 points with one try

try against.

But the South Africans were quick to learn. John Hammond brought over a team in 1896, which drew with Western Province (no score) and were defeated by South Africa in the last test by 5 to nil.

This team had eight Irishmen, which probably accounted for their popularity. The famous Rev. Mullineux, most travelled of Rugby men, was one of the inside backs.

But African Rugby had come of age (1903) when Mark Morrison brought over the third team of Rugby tourists. Of the 22 games played, South Africa won 8, and 3 were drawn. The Western Province defeated them by 8-4. Two of the tests were drawn, while South Africa won the last.

Mark Morrison, who led the third side, was a famous Scottish forward who played eight seasons for Scotland. It was a very strong forward pack with Bedell-Seivwright, F. M. Stout, and the two great Irish forwards Tedford and Wallace.

By 1890, the South Africans were going full bore. Tom Smyth (Malone and Ireland) brought over the fourth touring side, which repeated the performance of the third team, by losing 8 games and drawing 3. They managed to beat Western Province by 5-3, lost the first international by 14-10, won the second by 8-3, and lost the third quite convincingly by 21-5. Western Province defeated them in the last match by 8 to nil. Smyth's team had a preponderance of Welsh and Irish.

Springbok Rugby was on the up and up.

STAFF-SERGEANT BROWN'S TEAM MAKES HISTORY

Our Army tourists embarked on the s.s. "Cap Polonio" for the trip to the cape. This was a much enjoyed interlude. They received a great welcome at Cape Town, where there was a festive atmosphere occasioned by the arrival of the South African Prime Minister, Louis Botha, fresh from his triumphs in Europe.

The pattern of fixtures in South Africa was generally the same. The opening gambit was against Western Province Country, then followed a game with Western Province Town, and sometimes a match with the Colleges was arranged.

When any team touring came to face the full strength of the Western Province, they found they

had a handful. Sometimes the game against Western Province was left to the end of the tour; but whenever it took place they were a hard nut to crack.

Maurice Brownlie's team in 1928 went down by 10-3, and Fred Allen's combination in 1949 were more successful, they won by 6 points to 3.

New Zealand

P. W. Storey	J. Stohr	W. A. Ford
W. R. Fea	E. Ryan	R. W. Roberts
	C. Brown	
A. Singe,	M. Cain,	E. W. Hassell,
J. E. Moffitt,	J. A. Bruce,	H. Gilchrist,
	E. A. Bellis.	

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There is no space to tell of the great impression made by this side on the South Africans. They acted like a blood transfusion to the game in the Union. They played 15 games, of which they lost 3, and drew one. This team was a great side in many ways, and it was they who created in the minds of the South Africans a great opinion of the brilliance and versatility of the New Zealanders at Rugby.

On September 6th, 1949, at Newlands, Western Province defeated New Zealand by 17-6; but six days later, the tables were turned, and the army team stepped out and played dazzling football, to win handsomely by 20-3—the greatest defeat inflicted on the Western Province for a generation.

One scribe said that the brilliant play of the All Blacks had caused no surprise to him, "for there were certain periods on the tour when their form was bewilderingly subtle, full of initiative and resource, daring and yet sound; but he said that it was doubtful if they ever played with such all round skill as they did in the second game against the Province.

"Their football was an education, and no mistake. It had revealed the strength and power of New Zealand football, because, on showing their hand in its entirety, the All Blacks demonstrated the New Zealand game which was quite as attractive and much more effective than the South African. Not for twenty-four years had a Newland's crowd seen any team launch attack after attack against a local team, as had the All Blacks."

The South Africans were also convinced that seven forwards could hold eight. They saw Hasell, Standen, Moffitt, Bruce, Kissick, Cockroft and Fogarty not only hold the Springboks, but they saw them dominate. This New Zealand Army team was a great side, particularly in front.

With the return of soldiers from the war, Rugby went away to a flying start, to usher in a post-war boom. Thousands who would not normally have played the game in the field found themselves pressed into service, and many new stars were unearthed.

The Ranfurly Shield was brought out of the cupboard, and the Wellington Union, the holders, faced the first challenge, from Canterbury, on August 13th, 1919, at Wellington. The Governor, Lord Jellicoe, was among those present.

The tries tell the story of the game.

The first score came from a passing rush by Tilyard, Corner, and McArthur, the last-named scoring. 5-nil. Then came Canterbury. Fitzgerald, Yates, Davis and Buchanan were associated in a brilliant dash, the latter scoring. Another combined effort, this time finished by

Corner, saw the latter touch down at the flag. Green goaled; ten to three in Wellington's favour.

Canterbury came again. Bill Cummings made the opening, passed to Jackson, who received the leather against to score. Davis goaled, bringing the score 10-8 in Wellington's favour. Wellington were attacking all the time, handling perfectly. McArthur scored. Wellington 15, Canterbury 8. Just before half-time, Elliott forced his way across. Wellington 18-8.

Canterbury forced the pace in the second spell, but couldn't press their advantage; Ryan crossed again, increasing the defender's total, and the first post-war Shield game ended with Wellington winning 21-8.

The holders resisted four more challenges. There was a change in the rules governing the Shield, and Wellington, the holders, sponsored the motion to allow for "away" challenges. This sporting action by the Wellington Union was much commended by the delegates at the annual meeting of the New Zealand Union.

The Army team disembarked at Auckland en route from Durban, and played an Auckland side on October 18th. The tourists went well while their wind lasted, tries being scored by Cain, Kissick and Stohr, who converted his own effort. For Auckland, Stormant got a penalty goal and Wilson a try. In the second spell, Auckland showed better combination, but the tourists were not to be denied and Stohr scored and converted, bringing the total to 16, with Auckland 6.

The tourists included Ranji Wilson, who had played with them in England. "Ranji" was an Islander and a great player. He was one of the early victims of racial discrimination. They told him it would be unwise to play him in South Africa.

The inter-island match was revived and was played at Wellington on September 20th, 1919. North, which fielded nine Wellington players, won easily by 28-11.

A new generation of players took the field. A young threequarter made his debut for the South; his name was Jack Steel. Sam Wilson, one of the South selectors, used to tell the story of how he was selected.

He related how a stranger came to his hotel and said that he might care to have a look at a young back who had the makings. Sam saw this youth in action and was duly impressed, though he thought he would need to have the corners rubbed off him; and so Steel was given his opportunity, and made an instant impression, capturing the crowd and scoring two tries. Few threequarters in history had Steel's power and dash; with his powerful hip-bump, he could score tries were none else could.

BACK TO NORMAL IN 1920

In the new season, the cries of the players were once again heard in the Park. So far as the Ranfurly Shield was concerned, Wellington showed by their performances that they were a well-trained side. They defeated Canterbury 15-3 at Wellington, Bay of Plenty by 22-3, and at Hawera they defeated Taranaki by 20-9; back at headquarters they scored 20 points to 5 against Hawke's Bay.

They then took the Shield to Auckland and had a close call. Calcinai (2), "Ranji" Wilson, Hughes and Barker scored for Wellington. Mark Nicholls converted four. For Auckland, Singe, Earlby and Taylor scored. Laxon converted a try and kicked a penalty goal. G. Murray gained a try and Kingston a dropped goal. Wellington 23, Auckland 20.

On May 8th, 1920, a fifteen from Charlie Brown's Army team was assembled. It had no difficulty in defeating Wellington by 23-8. It contained Arthur Wilson, who had stayed in the King's Cup series. This shows the calibre of the 1919 Tourists.

Wellington withstood challenges from Taranaki 16-5, Wanganui 20-14, Auckland 20-3. They then sportingly took the Shield on tour south. At Timaru, they defeated South Canterbury 32-16, and Otago at Dunedin by 16-5. They lost to Southland by 17-6, and thus the Shield went to the South Island for the first time.

Here is the team which won the game for Southland:—

	I. Brown	
G. Fortune	P. O'Kane	J. Holmes
N. Stead	L. Lopdell	
J. Dalglish,	W. Smith,	E. McKenzie,
E. L. Cockcroft,	A. White,	H. Agnew,
W. T. Langbein,	G. Miller,	D. Baird.

The Southland forwards set out to dominate the game, and in loose and tight play did so, though Wellington raked the ball from nearly every scrum. The latter's forwards packed up half-way through the second spell, though they struggled on gamely: the maroons always had the upper hand.

The Wellington backs were superior in attack, playing dashing football, though their defence suffered in comparison, for they were quite unable to cope with the rushes of the Southland forwards.

The Southland back division, though not so well organised as their opponents, put up a stiff defence, tackling hard all through. For Southland, Fortune, Stead (2), and Holmes scored. Ian Brown converted a try and Son White kicked a penalty. Mark Nicholls, a penalty, and McCabe, a try, were the scorers for Wellington.

An event of prime importance in 1920 was the visit of Sydney University—the first union side to come out of Australia after the war. It was very welcome as showing that the old game had once again got under way.

This visit should have taken place in 1914, but the war intervened. My committee at Canterbury College was constituted the University Council for the purpose of controlling the visit. The chairmanship fell to me, with Robert Beattie as secretary.

The conditions of the tour were that Sydney should meet their transportation expenses to New Zealand, and we would travel them. On all sides we were warned that we wouldn't be able to make a do of it, as since 1914 there had been a big advance in rail and steamer fares.

We felt that we had to start some time, though we were somewhat worried over their drawing ability and were entirely without knowledge as to their capability.

They were due to open their tour against Victoria College at Wellington, and we arranged for George Aitken, future All Black and Scottish International, to wire us the result of the game. The telegram which we collected was not very helpful: "Tram strike here stop good crowd, people had to walk to the park stop, won by a point, George." We were still in the dark when we met the team the next morning at the Christchurch station.

The manager was W. P. McCallum, a son of the noted Professor McCallum. He told us that Sydney had been defeated by 20-19. The team went on to Dunedin to meet Otago University.

Otago University deserve a chapter to themselves. Their record up to 1940 entitles them to be classed as one of the most consistently brilliant teams in the Rugby-playing world. Up to that time they have won the Dunedin championship some 20 times, and had hardly ever been outside the first three placings.

At the university, some 200 of their members have played for Otago, a remarkable total when an old and established club, Kaikorai, had only half that number. A hundred of them have played for the N.Z. Universities.

Though their forwards have been good, it is without doubt that their strength was in the backs. No club, not even Oxford or Cambridge, Edinburgh or Sydney, has produced such a galaxy of great backs. Here are some of the most prominent of them:—

Allan Adams, W. Alexander, Trevor Berghan, Ian Botting, N. Bradanovitch, Ron Bush, H. Childs, E. Cockcroft, Jock Cuthill, Roger Dansey, Bob Duthie, Ron Elvidge, W. R. Fea, H. F. Fookes, C. G. Gillies, Colin Gilray, A. Holden,

J. G. Mackereth, Jack Murray, D. G. MacPherson, N. M. Paewai, Arnold Perry, R. G. Sinclair, Don Stevenson, J. M. Watt, F. G. Ward, R. Webb, A. N. Fell, and there were many more.

I played against some of them and saw many of their sides in action. They seemed always to produce the same brand of football, for they played with delightful unorthodoxy, throwing the ball about with abandon, on the principle, apparently, that if they themselves could score four or five tries they didn't mind their opponents getting one or two.

They were impelled, like ants, to propel the ball forward, and if the last man was tackled he would fling the ball back, and generally a team mate would desperately dash up, grasp the leader and carry on the movement. They passed on their own line and had ground into them the slogan: Attack! Attack! Attack!

They couldn't have done what they did unless their game was based on solid scrummaging; nor could have they survived in a city where the clubs have always been noticeably strong forward.

The forwards fought feverishly to give their backs the ball, and when the latter's attack was spent they came out with crisp, short passing which overwhelmed the defence. They were always well coached; one of their best mentors was V. G. Cavanagh, senior, a clever Rugby tactician and a man of quaint humour.

There was a delightful coterie which used to meet every morning at 9.30 at the office of Donald Stuart, one of a famous Dunedin family and a great figure in Rugby.

He was a tea merchant, and there was a pleasant ritual about this morning tea. We drank a delightful brew in china bowls, but it was the conversation which gave these occasions panache. There would usually be present: Sid Styche, Dug Spedding, Bert Ainge, Harry White and "Onky" Cavanagh—and the rivalry between Pirates and Varsity!

There was an old weathercock on one of the adjacent buildings, and if it pointed west it meant victory for Pirates; and if north, for the students.

Vic Cavanagh was a natural wit, and his own composition "When I Joined the Fire Brigade" always brought down the house. As an after dinner speaker he was "immense." At one of the football dinners at Christchurch, he gave an address in correct professional mien on the advantages of higher education, which was received by his team with rapturous applause.

But to return to the Sydney University tour. It will be seen that Otago, with a team well up to standard, should have proved more than a match for the men from Sydney. The result was one of the greatest sensations in our Rugby history. We soon had our doubts dispelled—the

result showed them to be a great side. I was chairman of the University Council which brought them over. There had been no adult Rugby played in Australia during the war. We were rather worried about them as a draw card. We needn't have worried; they were magnificent.

The extraordinary feature of the game was that each side scored all its points in one half. In the first spell Mackereth and Fea scored tries for Otago, converted by Kingston. The second spell saw one of the most complete reversals of form in Rugby history. Sydney played dazzling football and put 45 points on the board.

Their points came from four tries each, scored by Raymond and Farquhar, a try each by McGurren, Stanley and Stuckey. As most of these tries were scored behind the posts, the number of goals was greater than usual. The old master, Jimmy Duncan, remarked to my friend Monty Stewart at half-time: "These fellows will run through our chaps in the second half," and they did. It has been said that Otago were suffering from too much capping week—but 45 points!

My committee was of course elated at this result, for it meant that the game against New Zealand Universities at Christchurch would now be a drawcard.

There are certain games which stand out in memory as being classic expositions of Rugby. There are plenty of instances where one side, with a marked superiority, has played faultless football; but when the sides are evenly matched and reach heights then football takes on a special glow. Such was the game between Sydney and New Zealand Universities.

The first spell was good without being over brilliant, and a contemporary account gives a fair idea of the reactions to this game: "Many people have said that it was the best game they had ever seen; others that it was the best game played in Christchurch for years. Undoubtedly the match, or perhaps the second half, was a fine one, and decidedly satisfying. The first half had electric moments, and even the tight play, of which there was rather more in the second spell, was absorbing.

"Yet it hadn't the sustained brilliance of the second half, when exciting incidents followed more quickly, and the play often became more brilliant.

"Backs and forwards alike, the New Zealanders played better Rugby than they had played earlier, and the Sydney men were spurred to greater efforts than they too had made. First one side and then another took the lead, and in the last few moments New Zealand got a try which secured victory, Craven scoring for McLeod to convert." New Zealand Universities 17, Sydney 9.

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"Dear Sir,

Enclosed is a snap of my son, Ken, taken last year, when at the age of four, he started playing rugby for the Onslow Super Midgets of Wellington. Weighing in at 4 stone 2 pounds, there is not an ounce of surplus weight on him — it's all good strong muscle and flesh.

It may interest you to know he is known to all the family as "The Marmite Boy"! He has just adored Marmite ever since he started eating solids. When he first started talking he used to ask for "My-mite on bread" — and still does!

Recently, when he had glandular fever, his doctor said to give him as much Marmite (in drinks and on bread and butter) as he wanted. Ken said to me after the doctor had gone, "That doctor knows what's good for me Mum, he told me I could have my favourite — Marmite!"

I'll always thank Marmite for Ken's good health and abounding energy.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. B. M. Usmar,

11 Ardross Ave.

Khandallah, Wellington.

AK 2303

The teams:—

Sydney

O. Nothling

H. Goldsmith, R. G. Stanley, R. L. Raymond,
T. Lawton, J. Morgan, H. Farquhar, J. Erby,
D. Fowler, A. J. Murray, G. Stuckey, A. Buckle-
ton, F. McGurran, H. Hingst, A. Kendall.

N.Z. Universities

S. K. Siddells

L. Phillips G. G. Aitken A. McLeod
W. R. Fea A. E. Perry

A. T. Begg

J. Molloy, H. G. Munro, H. Harty, T. Milliken,
C. Campbell, D. Hutchison, J. B. Jackson, S.
Craven.

This Sydney team has always appealed to me. In appraising players there is often a tendency to extravagant praise; but in the case of Sydney, they fully justified all the things said about them.

Take, for instance, those four great fellows Raymond, Nothling, Lawton and Farquhar, giants of the stature and quality of Van Heerden, and then R. G. Stanley, a centre of international rating.

There were some interesting figures in the New Zealand University team. Fea and Siddells played in the third Springbok test in 1921, as also did Aitken, who captained the same All Blacks and afterwards played for Oxford and Scotland. The Oxford line of 1923 was particularly good—Wallace, Jacob, Smith and Aitken.

In the forwards, Douglas Hutchison is now a New Zealand Supreme Court Judge. Stan Craven later captained Hawke's Bay, Abe Munro hooked in the 1924 All Blacks, Hec Harty is a doctor practising in Dunedin, Tom Milliken—good, popular Tom—died in the Western Desert. Ginger Jackson is a P.W.D. engineer.

The 1920 team still lingers in the memory.

New Zealand Has A Great Wave of Enthusiasm For The Springboks In 1921

This South African team was a great team; greater than people thought at the time. It was a feat for them to even the rubber, considering the terrible conditions.

Meanwhile, in 1921, matches were being played for the Ranfurly Shield. Southland, the holders resisted a challenge from Otago by 10-8. Southland was represented on that occasion by Brown, Diack, Gilmour, Lopdell, O'Kane, Hazlett, Bell, Rice, Strang, White, Morrow, Agnew, Cockcroft, Baird and Brett.

Southland, showing a fine sporting spirit, took the Shield on their northern tour, and gave Wellington the first opportunity of regaining it. This was on the 16th September. As an exhibition of Rugby it was not up to rep. standards. It was, however, open and fast and produced some very good passing rushes, though at times the play became ragged.

It was a game of high scoring. Diack opened Southland's account with a try which Agnew converted. Southland 5-nil. Then a rush by Albert Jackson saw de Clifton, King, Markham

and Hutchison in a passing rush, for the latter to score. Southland 5-3.

The maroon full-back failed to hold a ball, and King secured and scored. Wellington took the lead 6-5. It became apparent that the holders were not equal to the task. They were mostly on defence. From a scramble in Wellington's line Lopdell picked up and ran across. Southland 8, Wellington 6.

Wellington took the lead with two penalties by Mark Nicholls, who was in good form. Wellington 12-8.

In quick succession Hutchison and Guy goaled, Nicholls adding the major points. Hutchison gained a goal from a mark, bringing the score to 25-8. In the dying stages Brown scored for the defenders, Agnew converting. Sid Shearer scored a try for Wellington, who won by 28-13—a comfortable victory.

The Shield thus returned to the North Island, where it remained until 1927, when Canterbury took it off the composite union, Manawhenua.

THE BAY EMBARKS ON ITS WINNING WAY

On the 8th August 1922 an unknown side came down from Hawke's Bay and took the Ranfurly Shield home.

I was living in Wellington about this time, and the reaction of the Wellington folk to this challenge was that it shouldn't be taken seriously—hadn't Wellington defeated them in the past with

their "C" team?

Hawke's Bay in other days had never measured up to the major centres, but now they emerged as a force in the land. It is safe to say that their sudden rise was unique in our history.

What was the cause of this sudden brilliance?

In the first place they had a band of accomplished Maoris—Blake, Nepia, Mill, Walker, Ormand, Paewai and Co.

But behind the Bay was the directing mind—the mind of Norman McKenzie. He saw very early the possibilities of his side, and it was he who told them how to play. Mac had studied the Wellington players and had guessed, shrewdly, how to deal with them.

This Wellington game was the first of a long series of victories, 25 in all, in which the men from Hawke's Bay were to display football of the highest order. Later on they attracted to their ranks notable players from other parts, of whom the most important was Albert Cooke, without doubt the greatest football genius of his or of any other time. No man in Rugby had ever impressed himself on the run of the game as did he; no one had ever won so many games by his own skill.

Here is a well-balanced contemporary report of the Wellington match: "The game was played in dull weather before a crowd of 3800 people. Hawke's Bay were superior in every department of the game, though play in the second spell was more even. The forwards were well matched; the challengers were superior in the loose, and the home team in the scrums."

Play was tame at the start, but after a little while a terrific pace was set by the visitors. The Bay's first try came from a clever run by Barclay, who scored at the corner. Yates failed to improve.

Play continued willing but ragged until Malfroy, on the Wellington wing, sent Standen and Troy away. These two, passing and repassing, made a fine run, Standen scoring. The conversion failed.

The Wellington backs then gave a fine piece of play, all handling beautifully, for King to hand on to Duncan, who muffed it and lost a certain try.

Hawke's Bay's next try came at the end of a forward rush. A pass was thrown out to Kirwan, to McNab who touched down. Hawkes Bay 8, Wellington 3. Yates then placed a penalty, bringing the Bay total to 11.

Next Trapski, the Wellington half, passed out to Udy, who topped a brilliant dodgy run by scoring. Hawkes Bay 11, Wellington 6.

In the second spell the holders, if anything had slightly the better of the game, though McNab added a try to the total, which Yates converted. 14-6. Then Maurice Brownlie made a 50 yards run, and Gemmell and Kirwan carried on the movement, Yates converting, bringing the Bay total to 19.

The last sortie of the day came from Wellington, whose forwards carried the ball to the Bay line, where Ryan dived across for a try which was unconverted, bringing the holders total to 9.

Hawkes Bay

C. Yates

A. Grenside

J. M. Blake

W. Barclay

N. Kivell

J. Kerwin

J. Hingston

J. McNabb, S. Gemmell, L. A. Miller, C. Brownlie, A. R. Kirkpatrick, M. Wayne, J. Scott, J. McGregor.

The new holders were faced with a challenge from Bay of Plenty on September 2nd and had a narrow victory by 17-16. Hawkes Bay led by 11 points to 10 at the interval. There was nothing in the game beyond the close finish. Hawkes Bay were exceedingly lucky to retain the Shield. Bay of Plenty's shots at goal in the first half were good, but faulty kicking in the second half lost them the game.

The holders disposed of their second challenge by 42-8. This was against King Country.

A feature of the 1922 season was another visit from Sydney University. They were a good side but not to be compared with their 1920 team. Raymond and Morgan, though, had come over again. New Zealand prevailed in the first game by 23-22, and in the third Sydney won by 22-19. The test in Dunedin saw the home team definitely superior by 21-11, but the game which gained the plaudits of the crowd was the clash with Otago University.

This was voted one of the most memorable games ever seen on Carisbrook. It was a hollow win for the Dunedin men, whose backs in the second spell dominated the play. It was one of the most spectacular exhibitions ever given by the light blues. In the first half, the game did not reach a particularly high standard, being marred by faulty handling. The spell ended 10-6 in favour of the home side.

By a strange coincidence, ten points to nothing was the half-time score in the 1920 fixture when Sydney went on the second spell to score the astonishing total of 45 points. Perhaps they had in mind the necessity of evening up that old score.

This was one of the great Otago University teams, and they had many. Mackereth, Perry and Dickson scored two tries each, and Cabot, Stewart and Harty one each. Kingston converted four.

For Sydney, Woodhead, Taylor and Foote crossed the line. Otago 35—Sydney 11.

Canterbury's Great Bid for the Shield in 1923

In the first two Shield engagements, Hawkes Bay was somewhat lucky. They resisted challenges by Wairarapa and Wellington, winning by 6-0, and 10-6 respectively. Then they accounted for Poverty Bay by 15-nil.

The Bay played two games against Wairarapa in this year. Actually the latter put up a very good showing in both games.

In the first game, the Shield game, the Wairarapa team was:

	R. Cundy	
H. Carson	E. B. Booth	R. Booth
D. Proven		R. Jury
	F. Booth	

Selwyn, Willoughby, J. G. Donald, J. D. Hutchinson, L. Fairbrother, W. Knowles, G. James, H. Desmond.

This was the Shield game played at Napier on June 4th. A return game, when the Shield was not at stake, was played at Carterton on July 21. There were four changes in the Wairarapa side. P. McKay and S. Stunell were new faces in the backs and Stanley Willoughby and Ian Harvey in the forwards. Wairarapa won by 6 points to nil.

Then came Canterbury's turn. Here is the team:

	J. Harris	
W. Dalley	I. H. Brown	W. A. Ford
M. L. Page		R. Evans
	C. St. George	

W. Sergison, J. H. Parker, J. T. Burrows, S. Hooper, L. Petersen, R. Masters, O. Turpin, B. Deidrich.

Canterbury had an exceptionally good season in 1923, defeating no fewer than eleven sides. The only provinces to score a victory over them were South Canterbury and Hawkes Bay. The side which took the field contained nine All Blacks, then and in the future.

It was a brilliant pack made up of tall, fast forwards—a match for anything in the country. Masters and Parker were chosen for Porter's team a year later, and Turpin, Sergison and Petersen were great in the line-outs, as well as in the loose.

Burrows and Hooper, though light, gained more than their share of the ball. Burrows was later to distinguish himself with the 20th Battalion in World War 2. He is now a Brigadier.

The inside backs were safe and played correct football, though perhaps a little stodgy. Dalley was in a role which may strike one as peculiar, but he showed up to advantage. On the other wing, the "Whippet," Ford, displayed all his old-time dash. Ian Brown, who had played previously in Shield games for Southland, gave a polished exhibition at centre. Harris was very safe.

It was a game which gripped the crowd from bell to bell, especially, but vocal contingent from Christchurch who were rendered almost speechless before the game ended.

The game itself:

The first try came suddenly after some loose play had swung to and from. At half-way, Walker, a Bay forward, cut through until St. George brought him down with a rattle. He swung a difficult pass to Ormond, who held it and threw to Grenside, who loomed up to flash through for a try. 3-nil.

The lead was soon effaced by the challengers. Brown took a mark in a good position and piloted the ball between the uprights: all square. Canterbury took the lead. The tall southern forwards Petersen, Turpin and Deidrich were leading rush after rush in desperate style, and from a scrum at half way, Petersen broke away, well supported by his team mates. Masters dived over to score. Canterbury took a 5-point lead amid the frantic clamour of their followers.

Bay came away with a rattle in the second session, but Page, Dalley and Harris were notably sound on defence. The challengers came again to the attack, for the Bay seemed to be tiring. Then Turpin, who was perhaps the most outstanding forward of the day, put in a bustling run, beating the fullback, only to be grounded right on the line by the speedy Grenside.

Then there was a swift change of fortune; Brownlie, Ormond and Walker threaded their way through the reds with snappy short passing. Mill came up fast, passed to Grenside, who sent Nepia flashing through for a try which he failed to improve. Canterbury led by 8-6.

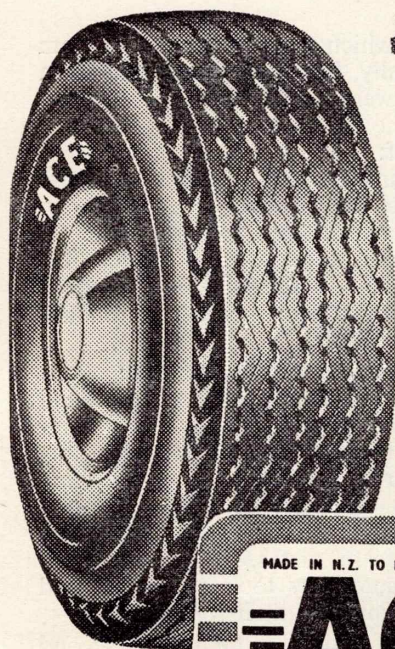
Canterbury were now defending. The change in the fortunes of the same came suddenly. Bay seemed to recover from their languor and made desperate attempts to score.

Next, Walker picked up the ball to pass to Nepia on the open side. He dropped it and promptly recovered, broke through cleverly and sent on to Mapu; Harris tackled him, and the ball bounced. Nepia came up smartly, gathered the leather and fell over the line. The kick failed.

Time was called with Hawkes Bay 9 and Canterbury 8. It was a game packed with exciting incidents and though the challengers might well have won, even the most one-eyed of the visiting contingent would have agreed that the Bay would have been a trifle unlucky to have lost.

The great Nepia was in rare form; he was an excellent five-eighth and showed uncanny anticipation.

On September 8th Horowhenua were beaten



NEW

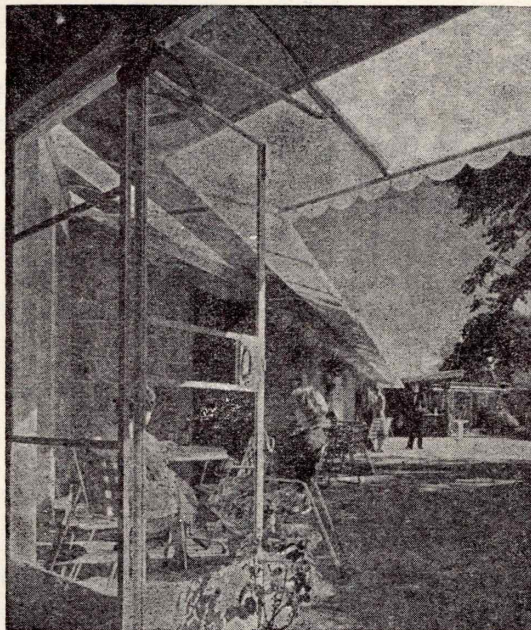
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38 to 11. The next challenge was from Auckland who were much favoured, fielding the two great masters of the game in Cooke and Ifwerson. But the challengers were completely lacking in successful offensive tactics, and in consequence spent most of the afternoon in their own territory. Hawkes Bay won by 20 to 5.

Paewai, McNab, Walker and Mill (2) scored tries. Nepia converted one of Mills' tries and

kicked a great goal from half way. Cooke scored for Auckland and Ifwerson converted.

In 1924, the second contest for Te Mori Rose Bowl was played at Auckland, the Northern Maori XV again winning. This match was viewed by the New Zealand selection committee, the Southern XV having H. G. M. Nepia playing fullback instead of five-eighth. A great custodian was found.

THE 1924 SEASON

WITH a New Zealand team due to go to the United Kingdom, there was enormous interest in the game.

Hawkes Bay further built up its team in 1924. Wairarapa were defeated on the King's Birthday fixture by 30-14. Poverty Bay were easily defeated by 46-10, Nelson by 35-3, and Manawatu 31-5.

Auckland sent down a strong team who took the field against the Bay on August 23rd at Napier. The old general, K. Ifwerson, and his brother, N. Ifwerson, were in fine form. Others on the challenging side were Wright, Keene, Fogarty, N. McLean, Peters, Righton, Goodacre, Olsen, Lomas, Keary and Kirwan.

But the Bay carried too many guns and won by 23-6. In this game, Falwasser and Grenside, the Hawkes Bay wings, were in fine fettle. A team which could call on these stalwarts and Nepia, Paewai, Blake, Yates, Corkill, in the backs, the Brownlies, Gemmell, Walker, Ormond and McNab in the forwards, was in a very strong position.

Comparisons have often been made between the Hawkes Bay sides of this era, and the Auckland sides of twenty years before. It is difficult to arrive at a comparison, because three or four Rugby generations had intervened.

Auckland, for instance, could claim that they possessed the greatest rucking packs ever. When the Auckland forwards went on the field they set out immediately to control and dominate the play; this they did ruthlessly. The other side had no opportunity of snapping up a loose ball. The Auckland backs did not have to be smart. They tried to develop a safe, colourless type of game—marking or kicking to the line. It was a "safety first" policy.

Hawkes Bay, in the years of their greatness, also possessed wonderful forwards, who, I think, would not be far below the Auckland standard in the loose and the line-outs, but would, I believe, be shaded slightly in the tight.

Their great strength behind the scrum lay in the speed and dexterity of their back division, and it was the integrated front of both backs

and forwards which produced a peerless scoring machine, whose brilliance was shown only by the All Black teams from 1903-1908 and at times by Porter's 1924 team.

It is interesting to examine the scoring figures of these teams. The inferences from statistics of this nature are not always conclusive, because of the difference in strength of the opposition, but they are more valuable in assessing the defensive qualities of a team.

Auckland in 25 Shield games from 1904 to 1913, scored 406 points with 122 against, an average of 16 for and 5 against. In all this time only three teams scored double figures against them.

Hawkes Bay figures from 1922 to 1926 are almost astronomical. In 26 games, they amassed 733 points with 222 against; an unbelievable average of 29 points for and 8.5 against. Eleven teams scored double figures against them. In seventeen of these games they scored over 20 points. Some of the opposition was, of course, not up to the mark.

When one looks at the performance of Gallaher's team in 1905, one is immediately struck with the conclusion that no team could ever hope to emulate them. In 32 fixtures they scored 830 points with only 39 against. The average—26 points for, and the incredible figures of 1.45 against. What marvellous defence they had. In 18 games, they scored over 20 points, and no team reached double figures against them.

Porter's men did extremely well, and scored 654 points with 222 against, in 18 games; the average 23.4 points for, and 3.5 against. Only three teams scored double figures against them. On 17 occasions they went over 20 points.

One would not care to say which was the better side of Auckland or the Bay; I could not imagine any team defeating them. If Hawkes Bay, particularly, had been able to embark on a long tour, they would, I think, have achieved the same marvellous football as did the men of 1905 in their first 15 or 16 games. There can be no praise greater than that.

RUGBY MAKES FURTHER PROGRESS IN 1925

A New Zealand team crossed the Tasman. It was chosen from nominations which did not include any of the 1924 tourists. They had little difficulty in defeating New South Wales in the tests.

Later in the season a team from the latter State toured the Dominion under the captaincy of Tom Lawton, who had lately returned from England. They had a comparatively successful tour. They went down to a combined Canterbury-South Canterbury side on September 2nd by 22-13. The Timaru members were F. Tate, G. Lawson, H. McKenna, R. T. Stewart and G. V. Gerard (later Bishop Gerard).

The other defeat was at the hands of a New Zealand team, thirteen members of which were members of Porter's 1924 combination. This was a particularly strong selection:

	Nepia		
Lucas	Cooke		Svenson
	M. Nicholls	McGregor	
	Mill		
Porter, Stewart, Richardson, M. Brownlie,			
Masters, Finlayson, Lomas, Irvine.			

New Zealand were far too good for the opposition, scoring eight tries, six of which were converted by Mark Nicholls. New South Wales scored 10 points; tries by Bowers and Morrissey, converted by Lawton. New Zealand 38, New South Wales 10.

The return of the 1924 tourists caused tremendous interest in the Ranfurly Shield. Nepia, Paewai, Mill, Irvine and the Brownlies were back again and practically every man who wore Hawkes Bay colours was an All Black.

Their first engagement was the usual June 3rd fixture with Wairarapa, which was won by the Bay by 22 to 3.

The second challenge came from Canterbury and, true to tradition, it resulted in a close and exciting clash.

The teams:

Canterbury		
D. Nixon		
W. Elvy	W. A. Ford	A. Robilliard
C. J. Oliver		D. Hay
N. P. McGregor		
G. Scrimshaw, A. McCormack, F. Clark, D. Dennehy, R. R. Masters, S. Baird, A. Y. Montgomery, N. Waghorn.		

This team was notable in that McGregor at halfback was in a unique position for him. The forwards were particularly good on the day. Never in the history of Hawkes Bay football, so it was said, had a match aroused such widespread interest. It even eclipsed that great sporting event when the famous Canterbury gelding, Gloaming, was defeated by the Hawk.

Napier was full of visitors from all parts of the Dominion.

Comment: "With a team much below strength, Canterbury demonstrated today that Hawkes Bay are not world beaters; they generally are so considered. The general opinion after the game was that the Hawkes Bay men were very lucky to win, especially as injuries kept some of Canterbury's best men out. The challenger's emergency backs and forwards played splendidly. It is a long time since such a spectacular and exciting game has been played in New Zealand, or anywhere else for that matter.

"Blake, Corkill, Mill and Falwasser were the best of the Bay backs. The best forwards were Maurice Brownlie, Ormond and Gemmell.

"The game was wonderfully spectacular all through; and right up to the final whistle it appeared as if either side might win. The crowd was frequently brought to its feet as the play swung up and down the field with passing and dribbling rushes."

The scoring:

Two minutes from the start, Maurice Brownlie scored. Grenside streaked across for a try, which Irvine converted. 11-nil. Canterbury replied with a dribbling rush in which Baird, Clark and Montgomery shone, the latter scoring. 11-3.

The next thrill was a spectacular pot by Nepia from half-way. The wind took it away from the posts. Canterbury then took up the attack. Scrimshaw started a rush, passed to Oliver, who ran to Grenside, sent in to Robilliard who ran from half-way to outpace the opposition —14-8 at half time.

On resuming, Hawkes Bay were on the offensive immediately. Falwasser made a splendid dash, was grassed on the line and Mill, coming up fast, dived over between the posts. 19-8.

The game was now fast and furious and full of thrills. Ford picked up when an opposition rush broke down. He passed to Oliver who streaked through the opposition to touch down. Nixon converted, making the score Hawkes Bay 19, Canterbury 13.

The challengers were now going great guns. Doreen next dashed down the touch line, but the Bay brought play back to the Canterbury 25, where Falwasser took a difficult pass from Blake and scored close in. Irvine converted. 24-13.

Canterbury came again; McGregor secured and sent Hay, Oliver and Ford away in a slashing attack. Ford scored and Nixon converted. 24-18. The challengers kept up the pressure, and a rush saw Doreen thrown out at the corner. Canterbury were still attacking at the bell. They might easily have won.

The Bay continued on their successful way. On August 8th, Southland was defeated 31-12 at Napier. At Hastings on August 22nd, Taranaki went down by 28-3.

The holders, in a sportsmanlike manner, took the Shield to Wellington, who fielded a strong side including Nicholls, Porter, Svenson, Johnson, Walters and the Shearer brothers. In a game which was rated on all sides as the best exhibition seen in the capital city for many years, the Bay ran out winners by 20 to 11. The Bay was very strong: Nepia, Grenside, Blake, Falwasser, Corkill, Paewai, Mill, Walker, Gemmell, Mahoney, Irvine, Kirkpatrick, M. and C. Brownlie and Ormond.

The last challenge came from Otago. This was played on September 9th at Hastings. Once again the Bay were too good, winning by 31-14.

On September 19th Hawkes Bay went up to Auckland and were just able to stave off a strong challenge from the Queen City men, but the Shield was not at stake. The result was a draw, 9 all, and the bright star of the northern team was Bert Cooke, who played with all his accustomed wizardry.

No doubt this moved Norman McKenzie to think: this is just the fellow for us. And so this expert went south to join his already wonderful scoring machine.

Hawke's Bay Reaches The High Water Mark in 1926

The year 1926 saw the Bay superior to all and sundry on the football field.

It is generally agreed that no state or provincial combination ever approached them, and this goes for the great Welsh clubs, Cardiff, Swansea and Newport, and the Western Province, too.

They had started away in 1922 with a good side, and in the years to follow, built up on this fine foundation. Where was their strength?

In the first place, they went in for solid scrummaging; in 1926 it was their monopoly of the ball which gave them an enormous advantage. Then, too, their forwards, big and rugged, swept over the opposition in the loose, like a juggernaut.

Their backs never fell from international standard, and their down centre play was delightful to watch. It was, however, the advent of Cooke who gave to the combination the lightning thrust which made them such an outstanding machine.

Cooke, as has already been said, was the perfect footballer—a great genius of the football arena. With Cooke in the team, the side took on a new significance.

When the Bay came off the ground after the annual fixture with Wairarapa, and the scoreboard showed 77-14 in their favour, all New Zealand sat up. They knew that something quite unique had arisen. But what a victory!!

Half-time score was 31-3 in favour of the Bay, and you must not think that Wairarapa were just a lot of hacks. Remember, they were to win the Shield the next year. This stupendous total consisted of 17 tries, 13 of which were converted, for most of them, as may be expected, were scored between the posts. Blake scored 5, Cooke 3 and Maurice Brownlie 3.

This happened at Napier. Two days later at Hastings they ran through a strong Wanganui

side led by "Moke" Bellis to win by 36-3. The half-time score was 17-3. There was a fine evenness about the scoring. Their bag this time was 10 tries, of which Cooke scored three.

Now, if anything was needed to pinpoint the importance of Hawkes Bay, it was the outcome of the match against Wellington. The result fairly staggered everybody—for Wellington sent up a team who were, despite everything, considered good enough to bring back the Shield. Anyway, the supporters who filled a special train thought so; Wellington was rated a first-class side.

	H. L. Grenfell	
S. Tait	L. J. South	K. Smith
	Mark Nicholls	K. S. Svensen
	H. E. Nicholls	
C. G. Porter,	L. Wilson,	C. J. O'Regan,
J. B. Taylor,	J. E. Moffit,	W. E. Tyree,
	L. A. Thomas,	E. F. Barry.

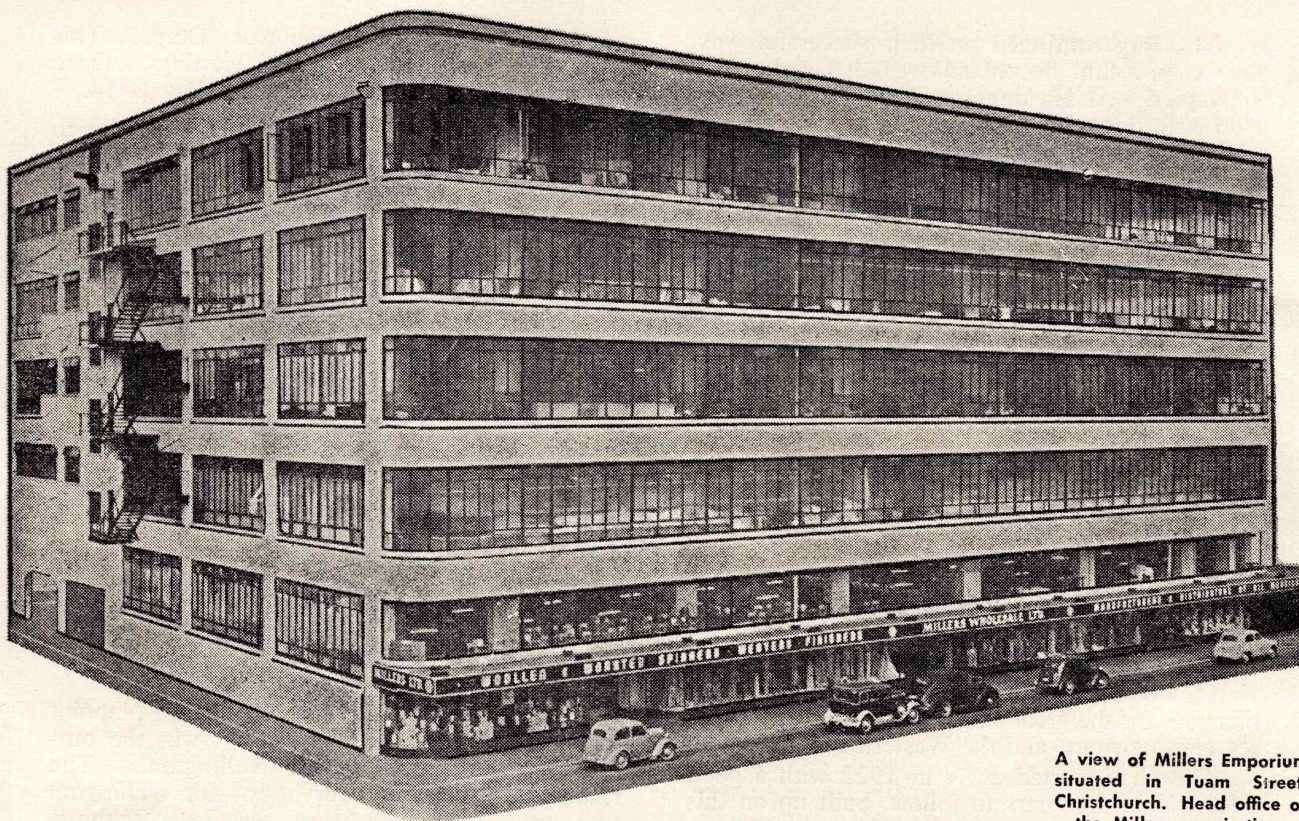
Though the Wellington threequarter line was undistinguished, the insides were internationals, with Mark Nicholls full of experience; at wing-forward, Porter was still going well. But their forwards weren't up to it.

The Bay vanguard swept over them like a tide. At half time, Smith, Porter and Wilson were replaced by Jessup, Warden and McKenzie. The score at half time was 24-nil in favour of the Bay.

There is no disguising the fact it was a very hard, almost rough game, and any of the challenger's backs who thought of going down on the ball took a risk.

The Bay team on the day was:

	Nepia	
Grenside	Blake	Paewai
	Cooke	Johnson
	Mill	
Walker,	Irvine,	Kilpatrick,
Mahoney,	C. Brownlie,	Pringle,
	Swain.	



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Thirteen tries were scored, of which Grenside scored 5. Nepia kicked a penalty and converted 7 tries. For Wellington, Barry scored one try, which Mark Nicholls converted. He also kicked a penalty. 58-8.

The next to fall was Auckland. They were a competent side, and, the year before, had a clear victory over Canterbury by 35-8. In the backs they had Lucas, Ifwerson and Wright, and a particularly strong vanguard with outstanding forwards in McWilliams, Finlayson, Hadley, Palmer, Knight and Batty. But it was of no avail; they went the way of all others, albeit by a much smaller score, 41 to 11.

This time only 9 tries were scored. Nepia converted two tries and kicked two penalties.

Cyril Brownlie had this to say afterwards: "Though we won by 30 points, there wasn't much between the teams. The lighter Auckland forwards more than held their own. Only in the last half hour of the play, when the visitors were run to a standstill by the terrific pace they had set in the early stages, did the Shield holders gain the ascendancy in a fast and somewhat rugged game."

That fine judge, Mr. W. G. Garrard, who saw the game, said: "Hawkes Bay are a wonderfully fine combination, but not invincible. The team that will beat Hawkes Bay must play a fine, open game for all it is worth, and thus prevent the Shield holders from getting into position for the peculiar style of game they play; viz., shock tactics in front to smash openings down the centre, with backs linking up for combined work, and forwards passing on a sectional, rather than in an extended front. There is no doubt that the Auckland tactics today were aided, quite unconsciously, by the prompt and decisive referee."

The next challenge game was against Canterbury at Christchurch. Hawkes Bay, with sporting spirit, brought down their best side in defence. Most of their stars did not proceed further south for the balance of the southern tour.

Charlie McCully called for me to meet the train on Hawkes Bay's arrival on the 17th September. This was our first glance at the Shield. The weather was very cold, with a hint of snow. In fact, when the visitors were training in the afternoon, they were almost enveloped by flurries of snow.

On the morrow, the crowd wended its way to the Park armed with rugs and hot-water bottles, but soon found that spring had arrived. They watched the game in their shirt sleeves.

And what a game!! Perhaps the most exciting and spectacular in all history. The inter-island game of 1907 was a flawless exposition but it did not stir the pulse.

This latest was a contest which gripped the imagination—a battle of giants. Not only was there superb and thrusting back play, but the

fierce forward sorties saw bodies being thrown around like sacks of chaff.

At any time in the last quarter of an hour it looked as if Canterbury might be successful, and it was one long succession of sustained thrills for a crowd who rose and settled again in their seats times without number.

One thing which heightened the excitement was the extraordinary place and drop kicking. Three times the ball rebounded into the field of play from attempts at goal. There were several "pots," one of which found the uprights.

But it was the Canterbury forwards who stole the show. In the loose they showed an explosive quality which gave the game its characteristic style. In the scrummaging and in ball control the visitors were superior.

No Rugby match ever played in Canterbury aroused such tremendous interest, or was so much discussed and looked forward to. The Canterbury forwards averaged 13st. 9lbs., and were a particularly hard and tough set. They included four country forwards in Waghorn, McCormack, Leahy and Ward. The others, Gray, Dickson, Jeffries and Scrimshaw were big names.

The teams in this greatest of all matches were:

Hawkes Bay		
	Paewai	
Grenside	Blake	Corkill
Cooke	Johnson	
	Mill	
Willis, M. Brownlie, Pringle, Craven, Campbell,		
C. Brownlie, Irvine, Swain.		
Canterbury		
	Lilburne	
Doreen	Oliver	Robilliard
Carleton		Ford
	Dalley	
Scrimshaw, Jeffries, Dickson, Waghorn, Ward,		
Leahy, Gray, McCormack.		

There were eleven All Blacks on the defender's side and ten in Canterbury's. McGregor would have made it one more had he been able to take the field. His absence was felt.

The game started in a crash of cheering. Lilburne put his toe to the ball in a high drop which floated outside the upright. He missed a penalty a minute or so later on.

Then followed a lovely Bay movement. Mill, at half way, set his backs going. The ball came to Grenside who dashed past his opposite number and ran to the line to transfer to Cooke, who repassed to him. Score 5-nil.

At this stage, Godfrey came on in place of Waghorn. The Bay forwards rushed the ball downfield for Maurice Brownlie to fall across the line, 8-0. The Bay came again in the forwards. Irvine crossed at the corner and Maurice Brownlie's attempt from the side line hit the upright, 11-0.

Then followed a Canterbury try which brought down the house. Doreen had the ball at the Bay 25; he centred it and it bounced at the foot of one of the goal posts and went high. Robilliard, coming up fast, made a swallow dive to collect the ball on its downward flight—the kick was muffed. 11-3. Then one of the Bay forwards got offside, and Carleton added three points to the Canterbury total, 11-6.

Canterbury kept up the attack. Paewai kicked well down towards half-way, where Lilburne took it nicely, ran a dozen yards, steadied himself and put his boot to the ball which sped between the uprights. Hawkes Bay were just a point ahead, 11-10.

The scene around the Oval was indescribable. Cheering went on for several minutes, the crowd sensing that a victory was within the grasp of the challengers. The Bay, not to be denied, came again. The ball was kicked towards Lilburne, the bounce favoured Cooke, who sped on and scored at the corner, 14-10.

Mill next hustled his backs on the blind, and Grenside barged over in the corner. He took the kick from the touch line, and the ball hit the upright, 17-10. Canterbury attacked. The backs broke away in a slashing rush for Doreen to touch down, a foot from the corner. Lilburne lifted the flags by a wonderful kick, 17-15.

The scene was now one of immense fervour,

the game proceeding in a crash of sound. Canterbury was awarded a penalty right in front of the posts. This was it. Maurice Brownlie thought the worst and turned his back. The kicker stood over the ball ready to swing his foot; the kick missed.

Canterbury provided more excitement when Lilburne sent the ball spinning towards the uprights, only to swing away. Then the bell! What a game!!

A marvellous game played in fine spirit by two accomplished teams. Jim Jeffries, the wag of Canterbury, wrote a clever skit on the game; he described one incident when Maurice Brownlie rushed down the field and fended off Archie Mac "who hit the ground with a bump which jarred his relatives in the Old Country!"

A team went to Australia in 1926. It contained 11 members of Porter's team. This was a particularly strong forward team, comprising many famous names, most of which were to tour South Africa two years later.

They were the Brownlies, Irvine and Kirkpatrick of Hawkes Bay, Alley and Hazlett of Southland, Knight and Lomas of Auckland, Stewart of South Canterbury, Porter of Wellington, Harvey of Wairarapa, and Finlayson of North Auckland. New South Wales defeated them 26-20 in the first encounter, but were not good enough in the last two games, going down by 11-6 and 14-nil.

THE BATTLE OF SOLWAY

Everything comes to an end, and so did Hawkes Bay's tenure of the Ranfurly Shield. Several of the Bay stars had moved on. These included Corkill, who found his way to Wairarapa in due course, and Nepia and Paewai.

Hawkes Bay were beaten by Wairarapa 15-11 at Napier on June 3rd, 1927. The scorers for Hawkes Bay were: Swain a try, Grenside two penalties, and a conversion. And for Wairarapa, Yates scored a try, and Cundy kicked four penalty goals.

Cooke comes into the picture again, and his prowess spelt success for the new holders. Wairarapa had built up a very strong combination. Cooke was just the man to make them into a formidable match-winning side. They had shown in their encounters with the Bay in the previous seasons that they had imbibed something of the Hawkes Bay outlook. The Wairarapa team to win the Shield was as follows:

	L. Roach	
R. Booth	C. Stringfellow	W. Yates
A. E. Cooke	R. T. Cundy	
	J. Hiroti	
J. G. Donald,	K. H. Reid,	Seymour Willoughby,
M. Parker,	Ian Harvey,	W. Reside,
	W. R. Irvine,	Q. Donald.

It will be remembered that, a year previously, the Bay defeated Wairarapa by 77 points to 14—a New Zealand record for an interprovincial game. Now Wairarapa defeated Bush Districts by 53-3 in defence of the Shield. They scored 13 tries.

It was largely Cooke's game—he scored three tries and converted five. His value to the side may be gleaned from the manner of his first try.

"The opening exchanges were quiet until Cooke secured at half way, sold the dummy to about five Bush players, and raced through to Siddells. He kicked past the fullback, regained

the ball and scored under the posts." You can't do much against that sort of thing. He gave to Wairarapa something of the magic which surrounded the Bay.

Then we come to the match which afterwards became known as the "Battle of Solway." This was the game between Wairarapa and Hawkes Bay, played at the Solway saleyards, Masterton, on July 9th. Hawkes Bay had combed the whole district for likely players, and they made a great bid to regain the Shield.

The game, though far from brilliant, held many exciting moments. The Bay forwards won the day, their combination being superior to the holders, who seldom displayed any genuine teamwork. Wairarapa were beaten for the ball in the scrums and line-outs, and only the rugged defence of the holders kept the Bay from setting up a big score.

It was a most willing go, as the name suggests, and early in the first spell, a forward on either side, Quentin Donald and Maurice Brownlie, were caught in a "pugnacious embrace" on the side of the scrum, and received their marching orders. Hawkes Bay 21, Wairarapa 10.

But the victory did not stick. Unfortunately, W. Barclay, who captained the Bay when Brownlie left the field, had already played in Auckland earlier in the season, and had not met the residential qualifications. Wairarapa appealed, and the New Zealand Rugby Union on the 23rd July awarded them the Shield. But it wasn't till 19th August that the Appeal Council upheld the New Zealand Rugby Union's decision.

The Barclay incident gave rise to one of the most-discussed incidents in all Shield history. After the management committee of the New

Zealand Rugby Union had awarded the game to Wairarapa, the Hawkes Bay Rugby Union forwarded an appeal to the Appeal Board through the management committee of the New Zealand Union, and did so in a sealed envelope, with a request that the letter be sent on, unopened. This caused a rumpus.

The chairman of the management committee, Mr. S. S. Dean, said that he had been informed that Hawkes Bay was producing fresh evidence, and it was not desired that the New Zealand Rugby Union be put in the position of prosecuting counsel.

He further said that the New Zealand Union had decided the Wairarapa protest on the evidence before them. The New Zealand Rugby Union did not wish to take sides in the matter.

Some members thought that the action of Hawkes Bay was somewhat dictatorial and undignified and in the end the motion was put and carried that the appeal had to be sent through the New Zealand Rugby Union unconditionally.

In the meantime, an extraordinary situation arose. Both Unions had played provisional Shield games; the Bay drawing with Taranaki on July 27th at Hastings, 8-all, and on the 30th July, defeating Manawhenua 16-0 at Napier.

Wairarapa's match was on August 6th when, at Carterton, they were defeated by Manawhenua 18-16. The later found themselves holders of the Shield. They repulsed two challenges. They defeated Taranaki 9-3, and had an easy win over Wanganui by 25-6.

Manawhenua, a composite Union embracing Manawatu and Horowhenua, took nearly £2000 at the gates for these fixtures.

CANTERBURY AT LONG LAST TAKES THE SHIELD

Canterbury's challenge came at the right time. The province had shown rare form against Hawkes Bay the year before in the special challenge game at Lancaster Park but, in 1927, they had suffered defeats at the hands of Otago, Wellington and Hawkes Bay. They may be accounted a little lucky to have collected the Shield when the relative provincial strengths are considered. Yet it was a strong combination, solid in front, with brilliant backs.

Canterbury

Harris

J. Steele S. Carleton A. Robilliard
H. Lilburne N. P. McGregor

W. Dalley

G. Scrimshaw, J. T. Burrows, F. Clark, J. B. Jackson, G. T. Alley, H. Godfrey, A. White, J. Pickering.

The side contained 12 All Blacks, but the game itself did not produce very good football, though the Canterbury forwards were first-class, Burrows being particularly prominent. Scorers for Canterbury—Dalley and Robilliard (2) scored tries, Dalley kicked a goal from a mark, Lilburne converted a try and Carleton put over a penalty goal. Canterbury 17, Manawhenua 6.

There were four changes in the Manawhenua side from the selection which lifted the Shield from Wairarapa on August 6th. They were Mullins and Moses in the backs and Tremewan and Mills in the forwards.

Although an All Black team was playing in South Africa, Ranfurly Shield matches were being held in New Zealand.

Canterbury, with eight men away in the All Blacks, played two early challenges. They had

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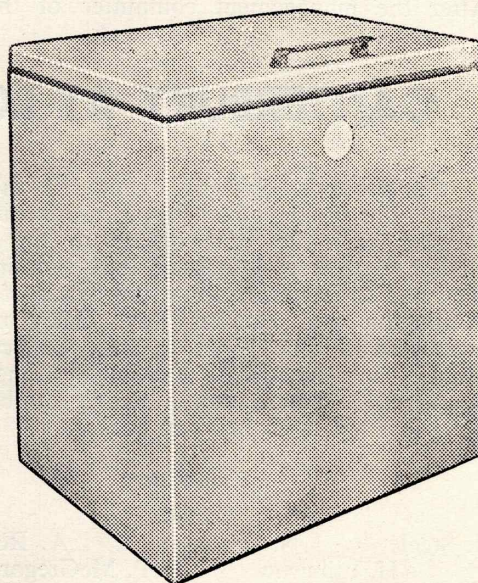
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little difficulty in resisting a challenge from South Canterbury by 29-9. This was on July 14th, 1928. Four days later, on a Wednesday, 18,000 people went to Lancaster Park to see Wairarapa lift the Shield in a quite amazing way. There was not much between the teams. It was Cooke's dramatic try towards the end of the game that sealed the fate of the Shield.

Canterbury

J. H. Harris

G. Hart. C. J. Oliver C. D. Chesley
D. G. Grant D. Hay

M. L. Page

Fookes, Lawson, A. Y. Montgomery, Toby
Robinson, J. B. Jackson, Tom Robinson, A. I.
Cottrell, F. Clark.

Wairarapa

L. Roach

W. Yates C. Stringfellow R. Jury
A. E. Cooke (capt.) R. Cundy

Hart

M. Parker, S. Willoughby, K. Reid, M.
Willoughby, McGregor, K. Fairbrother, W.
Irvine, Q. Donald.

In this low-scoring game, the public were not unduly concerned about the result, being confident that the holders would be equal to the

occasion. Chesley kicked a penalty goal and Oliver a potted goal, making the Canterbury total seven points. Jury had scored a try for the challengers, and with ten minutes to go and the score 7-3 in Canterbury's favour, the big moment had arrived.

Cooke, standing about 40 yards out, came into possession of the ball. He kicked a low "grubber," regained it, and raced towards the corner flag through a mesmerised defence. Harris chased him to the corner and Cooke, turning over in his mind that three points were not enough, eluded Harris and turned sharply to touch down under the posts. He added the extra points himself.

Canterbury came again, when Grant raced down the stand side line to draw Yates and hand on to Chesley, who muffed it. A drab game was raised from mediocrity by the great Cooke.

Wairarapa then embarked on a long series of victories. They defeated Bush Districts 57-11, Marlborough by 26-8, Wellington by 9-3 and finally Manawhenua by 31-10. Towards the end of their run in 1929, they played a Hawkes Bay inside back combination in Mill, Cooke and Corkill.

AUSTRALIA DEFEATS NEW ZEALAND IN THE TESTS

In 1929, the All Blacks in Australia contained only six players who had toured South Africa the previous year. They were Lilburne, Grenside, Carleton and Dalley in the backs, and McWilliams and Snow in the forwards. The latter was the only member of the great pack of 1928 to cross the Tasman.

It was obvious that our second line forwards were much below par. The one and only Nepia appeared as fullback, and the side was led by the agile Porter. For the first time in history a New Zealand side was beaten in all tests played; by 9-8, by 17-9 and by 15-13.

Though there can be little doubt that our game had slumped badly, it would be doing scant justice to the Australians who, in that year, fielded fine teams. It is really remarkable how, with so few to pick from, they were able to prevail over the New Zealanders, with their army of footballers—a question of quality and not quantity.

It is doubtful if Australia had ever had so many good men fielding the key positions; at fullback Westfield and Ross were equally good. The threequarters were the usual clever, fast-moving lot, of whom Towers, Crossman and King were the best. Tom Lawton, at stand-off, was a tower of strength, playing in his tenth

season. Sid Malcolm, at half, was classed with McKivatt and Walker as among the very best of Australians in that position.

The forwards were big and fast, containing some of Australia's "bestevers." Cerutti, Bonis, Brackenridge and Ford are all spoken of when the best Cornstalk forward are being considered. Ford, a giant, is perhaps, the greatest of them all. New Zealand's Rugby had lost much of its lustre.

The Ranfurly Shield continued to hold tense interest.

The traditional match between Wairarapa and Hawkes Bay on July 20th saw the holders victorious by 10-6.

Auckland came down to have a try for the Shield on August 10th. They have invariably run with the utmost bad luck in their quest for the trophy. True to form, they scored four tries, one of which was converted by Bush, while the Wairarapa total consisted of four penalties by Fuller and a try by Irvine, also converted by Fuller. Wairarapa 17, Auckland 14.

In their next encounter, Wairarapa defeated Manawhenua by 37-16.

Next followed Canterbury, who turned on their usual exciting challenge. The score was 5-all at half time. Then for the next 20 minutes

Canterbury was territorially beaten and the Wairarapa backs, fed by their forwards, tested the defence to its utmost. Then Hay potted a goal for Canterbury, bringing the score to 17-12 in favour of the defenders.

Canterbury came across with a bustling rush and Scrimshaw followed with another attempt in the closing stages, their backs opening up the play. Oliver tried a pot which was a poster, and Scrimshaw followed with another attempt—and so the game ended.

Then on August 12th, 1929, in the hundredth match of the Shield series, Wairarapa suffered a reverse at the hands of Southland. The latter's goal-kicking won the day. The score was 19-16. For the winners, B. Mahoney and R. Bird scored tries and G. Porter kicked two penalty goals, a pot and a goal from a mark.

The Shield crossed Cook Strait for the third time. The defenders' inside backs were a classic combination: Mill, Cooke and Corkill, who had previously been associated together in Hawkes Bay.

The winning side of 1929 was:

Southland

	H. W. Norris	
C. L. Stubbs	F. Townsend	F. Anderson
G. Porter		J. R. Bell
A. W. Holden		
B. Mahoney, D. Agnew, I. Galt, G. Purdue,		
H. McKenzie, R. Bird, T. Metcalfe, V. L. George.		

A British team came to New Zealand in 1930; it suffered six defeats in 21 games and was, in many respects, a most unlucky combination. Originally, the strength of the side lay in Sobey and Spong, two outstanding performers behind the scrum who were both associated at Mill Hill and were capped for England.

The loss of Sobey early in the tour was a crippling blow for the tourists, as was the loss of Dr. Murray in the Christchurch test. They had several fine backs in Aarvold, Reeve, Bowcott and Novis.

The weakness of teams chosen from the British Isles is that, normally, they do not seem to gather together the best forwards available. This has militated against success when playing against strong colonial opposition. They had several fine forwards with them in 1930, of whom Beamish and Black (England), Ivor Jones and Parker (Wales) and Farrell (Ireland) were the best.

We saw the tourists on Lancaster Park on two occasions. The Canterbury side was one of the strongest which had represented the province for some years:

	Lilburne			
Hart	Carleton		Oliver	
	Innes		Hay	
		Dalley		
Scrimshaw,	Serra,	King,	Stewart,	Alley,
	Manchester,	Burrows,	Cottrell.	

The Canterbury backs were enterprising and forced the play, and mention must be made of Lilburne at fullback. Time and time again he came up, took the ball and cut the defence to pieces. So interested were the visitors by his play, that they visited him at his home to learn more about how he did it.

The tourists won the first test at Dunedin by 6-3. The New Zealand inside back combination, Mill, Lilburne and Cooke, did not function effectually and there was a different inside back combination in Corner, Nicholls and Cooke in the second test, which took place at Christchurch on 5th July, 1930.

It was a hard-fought game packed with incident. In all, it was a match which will always be outstanding in our Rugby history. The rugged New Zealand forwards dominated the play in most of the second half, although Britain, battling hard with 14 men—Paul Murray retired with a dislocated shoulder near the close of the first half—made a wonderful effort to turn defeat into victory near the call of time. The score of 13-10 in New Zealand's favour flattered them.

New Zealand won the third test 15-10, and the fourth by 22-8. Travelling on to Australia, the tourists were narrowly beaten by Australia, 6-5.

The visit of this team in 1930 had far-reaching effects on New Zealand Rugby, for its manager, Mr. James Baxter, had come here with the avowed intention of doing away with the wing-forward and imposing on us the three-fronted scrum. Mr. Baxter could be very charming, but this did not stand in the way of his mission, which was to impose on us, at all costs, the three-fronted scrum. It is amazing how easily he accomplished it.

There was hardly a voice raised in protest when he took away from us our characteristic New Zealand formation and drained our play of a good deal of its personality. Like a Roman governor of old, he imposed on us the "Pax Romanum."

There were many things here that pleased him not. He "read the Riot Act" on the question of leaving the field at half time. It seems to me that our custom has much to recommend it. In the first place, the average player may want to attend to the needs of nature. In bad weather it is more comfortable to change jerseys or wash the mud off. What possible harm can be done by leaving the field at half time?

The matter came up early in the tour, on the eve of the Taranaki match. The Hon. James McLeod, chairman of the Taranaki Union, joined issue with Mr. Baxter and insisted that it was a custom here and, as such, would be carried out.

Mr. Baxter agreed to defer to local custom that once, and the teams left the field. Then he put his foot down and, at the dinner after the game he said that "there would be no more of this foolishness, there was a rule and whether it was foolish or not, it was a rule and they must abide by it."

At this function he also denounced the wing-forward—"while an occasional wing-forward might arise, the ordinary man who tried to play wing-forward was nothing more or less than a cheat." This caused an enormous sensation in New Zealand, and scores of old players were constrained to register their disapproval in most decided terms.

But he carried out his mission, and New Zealand saw the wing-forward no more. It seems to me that Mr. Baxter was unduly censorious of New Zealand Rugby and New Zealand institutions.

At the dinner after the Canterbury game, Sam Wilson and he were discussing the workings of club Rugby in New Zealand and the latter asked about the provision for juniors in the scheme of things. Did they have a vote? Sam, who could be very dry, replied that they did.

"Then these minors could control your game?" asked Jim Baxter, with rising anger.

Sam replied that, under certain circumstances, this might be possible but hardly likely. Mr. Baxter nearly had an apoplectic fit at the mere thought of it.

This was not the first occasion on which he moved in on behalf of the Union to take disciplinary action. There was the historic precedent of the match Scotland versus France at Paris in 1913. John Baxter, his brother, was the referee on this occasion, and James was also present, and this was one of the few times when a riot or near riot took place in a Rugby Union ground.

The decision of the referee did not find favour with the Parisian crowd, for their beloved team was being badly beaten. They gave vent to their feeling with long sibilant whistles. The authorities knew the portent of this, and drew up a company of cuirasseurs behind the dead ball area, armed with cutlasses. At the end, Scotland led by 21 points to 3, and when the final whistle

blew the crowd with one accord made for the rickety wooden tribune which seated the official guests. They were bent on tearing it down. The cuirasseurs leapt into action, driving into the crowd and smiting them left and right with their scabbards.

The Scottish team had to fight its way to the dressing-room. This appalled our Mr. Baxter and as a punishment the French were sent to Coventry. There was no return game until 1920. (The war, of course, had interposed.)

Mr. Baxter was quite a power in the land.

Though the British visit dominated the domestic scene in 1930, opportunity was taken to play several Ranfurly Shield games. Southland won three games. They defeated Wanganui by 19-nil, Otago by 37-5 and Hawkes Bay 9-6. They were somewhat lucky against the Bay.

Then on September 3rd, 1930, at Invercargill, Wellington successfully challenged for the Shield. This was an important game between two powerful, well-balanced sides. The great Cooke had shifted his venue and was associated with Frank Kilby at half and Mark Nicholls at first.

Southland had a fine big forward team; but, strange to say, they were shaded somewhat by the lively Wellington pack.

Wellington

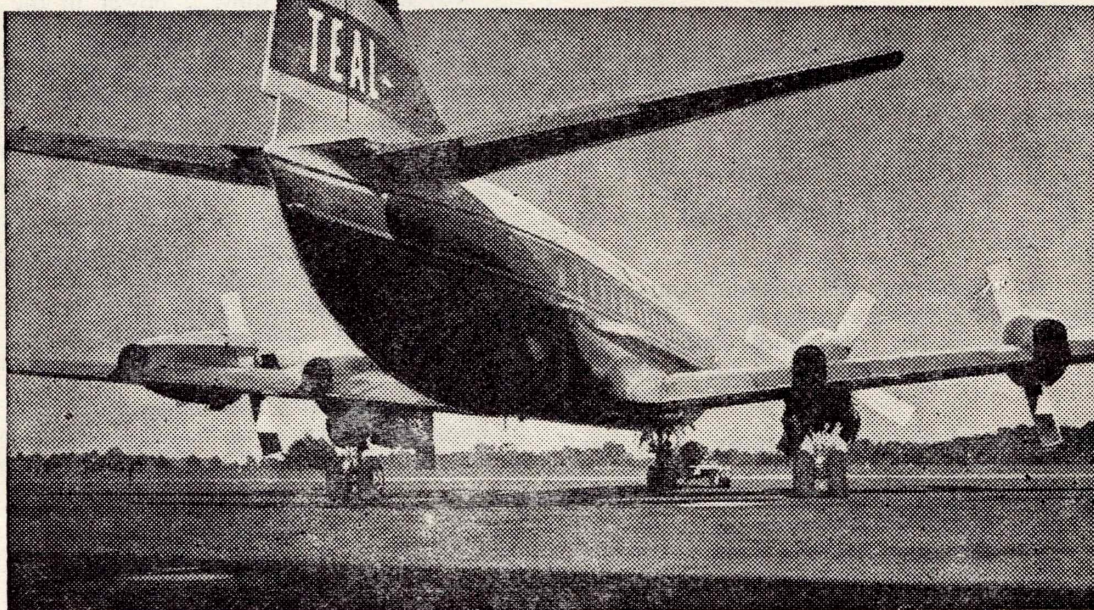
L. K. Heazlewood
J. D. McKay N. Ball D. J. Oliver
A. E. Cooke M. Nicholls
F. Kilby
O. Price, H. F. McLean, C. A. McPherson, E. F. Barry, W. E. Fell, E. C. Coulston, E. M. Jessup, E. R. Deidrich.

Southland

H. W. Norris
R. Webb G. Porter H. J. Geddes
E. H. Diack J. Sharpe
A. Holden
V. L. George, C. George, G. B. Purdue, H. McKenzie, I. Galt, T. Metcalfe, W. E. Hazlett, J. Murphy.

The weather was overcast and there had been rain in the morning. It was the general opinion that if the Wellington backs could get the ball they would make things lively for Southland. Wellington held the ascendancy in the scrums, which enabled Kilby to send his supports away in well-executed movements. Despite the bad conditions, the Wellington backs handled with certainty; three of their tries were the result of attractive back movements. Wellington 12, Southland 3.

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CANTERBURY TAKES THE SHIELD

IN 1931 Wellington were called upon to face two challenges for the Shield.

Southland was given an early opportunity, but was defeated by 36-13. Canterbury had gone down to Hawkes Bay on August 19th by 17-14, but the game was not as close as the scores suggest, for the Bay crossed the Canterbury line five times.

In Wellington there were few who gave the challengers much chance. The Wellington team was:

H. Lilburne
F. S. Fuller A. M. McDonald W. J. Huxtable
M. Nicholls J. R. Page

F. Kilby
O. M. Price, E. C. Coulston, C. A. McPherson,
E. F. Barry, E. M. Jessup, E. J. Reid, R.
Deidrich, J. Dellabarca.

Canterbury

A. Roberts W. Brown
G. Hart G. Innis
C. Oliver G. Day

T. Mullan
A. H. Andrews, A. I. Cottrell, W. Pease, P. G.
Roberts, J. Manchester, C. Quaid, W. Sweeney,
K. Kearney.

The game was tame in the first spell, despite the efforts of Kilby, Nicholls and Page to pep up the play. Wellington started the second spell with great dash; they scored twice in succession and led 6-3 right up until 10 minutes before time.

Then came a psychological try. The ball had been passed along the line of the Canterbury backs, until Wellington had become conditioned to the phenomenon. The moment came for the coup; Mullan got the ball, passed to Day at first five; Day fooled them, made to pass to Oliver and then flashed through the opposition to score under the posts. Canterbury 8, Wellington 6.

Alan Andrews, the Canterbury wing-forward, was most impressive on that day, and was later manager of the famous Army side, the Kiwis. Canterbury were to win 15 games in defence of the Shield until beaten by Hawkes Bay in 1934.

Canterbury played one game in defence of the Shield in 1931, and that was against Otago. The southern inside back combination was Simon, Bathgate and H. Smith; their threequarters were W. Allen, McKenzie and J. Robilliard. The wing-forward was later the notable coach V. G. Cavanagh. The pack included Hore, Finlayson, Hartnell and Lucy.

The game, which was won by Canterbury by 17-6, had some fast movements, but the chief

feature was the speed and thrust at which the holders broke away in scoring tries.

An Australian side visited New Zealand in 1931, and lost six out of the ten games; this was not expected, and only one test was played. New Zealand's insides were Corner, Lilburne and Strang. Hart, J. R. Page and Ball were the threequarter line.

Malcolm was captain of the visitors, who were associated with Stegall, of Queensland, as stand-off half. Actually Australia were unlucky to lose by 20-13, as the New Zealand total included four penalty goals by Bush, the New Zealand fullback.

Canterbury were fortunate in having a dashing, well-balanced side to defend the Shield. W. H. Vincent was half. There were four sound five-eighths in Innes, Day, Hazelhurst and Mortlock. Oliver, Hart and Bowes were a strong threequarter line, and Roberts at fullback was most dependable. The pack was lively enough, with several grand forwards in King, Andrew, Clark, Manchester and Cottrell.

South Canterbury were defeated by 11-6; Auckland by 14-nil. There was a sensation in the West Coast match in which the final score was 6-3 in favour of the defenders, because the whistle to end the game was blown when only 37 minutes had been played.

It was a fast and open game, both sides throwing the ball about freely, to the delight of the crowd. It was certainly one of the most exciting games seen on the Park for some time. Canterbury's points resulted from a try by Cottrell, converted by Roberts. Martin scored a try for the Coast. The call of time came as a surprise to the majority of the spectators.

The Coasters and their manager, A. A. Adams, took the incident in a fine sporting spirit. Usually this would have upset most sides with victory so near; the referee, Mr. Ernie Simpson, a most conscientious and efficient knight of the whistle, said that he had checked his watch with the umpire; whether the latter heard what was said is not clear, but he nodded his head.

The next challenge was from Wellington a week later. This proved the greatest fight of the season. The defenders scored three unconverted tries against a goal and a try by Wellington, 9-8.

During the first spell, when the wind was with Wellington, they were definitely on top and had a three-nil lead at half time; but in the second spell Canterbury played as they had never played before and turned the tables.

Wellington had a lively side. Their centre backs, Tindall, Griffiths, Robins and Killeen were fast and clever; their forwards solid. Lamason,

Quaid, Deidrich and H. F. McLean were prominent in a good all-round pack.

The next two challenges were from Buller and Waikato. Canterbury prevailed by 13-nil and 17-6 respectively.

The year 1932 was the depth of the depression and the grim spectre of poverty stalked the land. In Christchurch alone, some 20,000 men, women and children were rationed, or partly rationed, by the Metropolitan Relief Association, and it was one of the bright spots in the dull and hopeless lives of the people to go to Lancaster Park and be uplifted by the lively Shield matches.

The city was enlivened by the various excursions accompanying the challenge teams, and it was like a breath of air to the people. Further, the circulation of a little foreign money had a stimulating effect on the business life of the city.

With the concurrence of the Lancaster Park Board, the Canterbury Union issued some 11,000 free passes for admission to the Park.

An All Black team toured Australia in 1932. The cloak of mediocrity had fallen on New Zealand Rugby, for this season marked the end of the famous New Zealand 2-3-2 scrummage formation, which is recognised as having played an important part in the success of New Zealand sides.

In April, the annual meeting decided to adopt a scrummage formation of three men in the front row and to abolish the wing-forward position. Many who had voted at this meeting confessed afterwards that they had made a grave mistake.

The 1932 All Blacks were without distinction. They had good enough players but failed to impress. Kilby and Corner were the two halves; Innes and Lilburn and Pollock were the "fives" and Hart, Holder, Page, Procter, Ball, Caughey and Bullock-Douglas the threequarters. Collins, the fullback, was top scorer with 43 points.

There were 13 forwards, but it is doubtful if the New Zealand pack had anything like the efficiency of standard All Black vanguards. Clarke of Taranaki, Purdue of Southland, Hore of Otago and McLean of Wellington were the most impressive.

The tourists lost the first test to Australia 17-22; strange how the number 17 turns up so much in New Zealand's defeats! They won the other tests by 21 to 3, and 21 to 13.

They did, however, put up a record. In 10 games they scored 308 points to 99; but on close examination this record is nothing spectacular as, when the 151 points scored against their very weak opponents are taken into consideration, the record loses much of its lustre.

Goodwill Tour

Canterbury met Ashburton in the first engagement of the 1933 season and won by 31-7. Then they toured the North Island. In their southern tour of the previous year, they failed to win a match—they failed to win a match on this northern tour, too.

I was appointed to manage the team. It was my first appointment—and my last.

It had always seemed to me that New Zealanders take their football too seriously, consequently when an opportunity came I decided to show what could be done in the way of planning a tour in which football would be serious, yet full of fun. We had all the fun in the world!

We thought we could beat Wellington but struck a driving southerly, and couldn't manage the conditions. Mark Nicholls, coaching the winners, said to me after the game: "You should have known better, J.K.; you kick high with the wind and low against it so as to get the protection of the stand." Alas, I had forgotten this—a 14-6 defeat.

We decided to forget about our record and proceeded to build up the morale of the team by propaganda. I was persuaded by Mine Host at the hotel in Palmerston that my charges were jaded, and a drop of champagne would work wonders at the interval. The lads were frankly suspicious of the contents, so I sampled it; it was a vintage wine, Heidsieck 1927, which sat well on the palate.

We were beaten by Manawhenua 11-8, but were not unduly perturbed, and the people of Palmerston North must have been relieved when we boisterously withdrew from their fair city.

Ted McKenzie unsmilingly met us at Masterton with the news that a gale had blown the roof off the stand, and that we were quartered at the "Marquis of Normanby," at Carterton. It was here occurred the incident of the outraged barman, who, because of some very injudicious remark of mine, "plunged" heavily on us. I shall never forget his mournful look as we returned from the field, having been artistically defeated by 11-9. I mollified him by suggesting that he could recoup when we met Southland.

One thing we did achieve on this tour was a large measure of dash and fire. In these days when all sport, particularly Rugby, is in the hands of the cost accountants, this was a wonderful adventure, greatly enjoyed by all those who contributed to the happy nonsense which prevailed. We arrived home full of confidence to await the onslaught of Southland.

This Southland invasion on the 19th August, 1933, was one of the first of the great South Island excursions in quest of the Ranfurly Shield.

Arrivals by the earliest train were decanted on a cold railway station. Then they had to set

out to find some breakfast and a place to sleep. After thawing out they were met by the Southland Caledonian Pipe Band, resplendent in kilts, bagpipes and all the arcand of the great Scottish pageantry. Some hundreds of Southlanders formed up behind the band and marched to the Square.

In those days everybody worked on Saturday morning, and as the band made a tour of the city, it was seen by many thousands who thronged the windows. Yes, it was a great day, although the solemn inhabitants of the Cathedral City disappointed the invaders, who couldn't understand their lack of enthusiasm. And how did our psychological campaign work out? A resounding success.

Southland came up with a great reputation and their supporters thought they would be a racecourse certainty. The reds were right on their toes. Don Grant, the Southland captain, told me that when he went into the Canterbury dressing-room to toss for ends, he found the atmosphere electric.

The game started at a terrific pace and the holders, playing with dash and power, raced through their heavier opponents at will. The score was 21-3. The foundation of victory was laid on the northern tour. For the crowd it was the greatest excitement since the superb Hawkes Bay clash of 1926.

The teams:

Southland

G. Porter
A. McKay N. Mitchell J. H. Geddes
D. G. Grant R. Sharp
G. Thomas
T. Metcalfe, C. Pawson, G. Purdue, R. Berry, D. Southern, R. Donnelly, J. Mattingly, C. George.

Canterbury

G. T. Nolan
G. F. Hart C. J. Oliver N. Dunshee
K. S. Mortlock R. Hazlehurst
T. F. Mullan
R. H. King, A. H. Andrew, A. M. Hartnell, J. G. Howell, J. E. Manchester, A. Bowes, J. Wade, A. I. Cottrell.

This team would not foot it with the Canterbury team of 1955, but it played consistently clever, open football and had Mullan, Mortlock, Hazlehurst and Oliver, four accomplished centre backs. The forwards were toilers, with two brilliant number eights in King and Andrews.

Canterbury continued to hold the Shield, defeating Otago 8-5, West Coast 23-14, Buller 13-3, and drawing with Taranaki 15-all, defeating South Canterbury 6-3 and King Country 36-0.

Of these, the Taranaki and South Canterbury games were very close calls.

With only a few minutes to go, the score was 15-11 in favour of Taranaki and it looked as if the Shield was gone. In fact, Dr. Seed, the Canterbury president, asked me to get the Shield at the office and bring it up to the pavilion for presentation.

The last few minutes were charged with excitement. The Canterbury backs got under way with a last-minute rush. Hazlehurst received the ball and, looking around for an opening, hesitated and, turning swiftly, put his boot to the leather, the ball sailing straight and true through the uprights—15 all. The crowd were stunned by this happening but soon realised that the Shield was, after all, still with us.

HAWKE'S BAY GAINS THE SHIELD IN 1934

Canterbury was called upon to face a challenge from Hawkes Bay in July. The Bay came down with a well-balanced side, which showed better all-round form than Canterbury.

Hawkes Bay

Vartan
E. Apsly E. Evans C. W. Smith
H. L. Bradley C. LeQuesne
L. S. Clothier
A. H. Rolls, Tori Reid, E. K. Steere, W. R. Collins, H. Mataira, W. M. Miller, A. F. Kelby, T. Skittrup

Canterbury

G. T. Nolan
D. Mann C. J. Oliver N. Tweedie
K. S. Mortlock W. Hazlehurst

W. Oliver

K. Brown, A. I. Cottrell, O. Hattersley, B. Francis, G. Howell, A. E. Brownlee, J. Manchester, A. H. Andrews.

Comment: "Hawkes Bay deserved their victory, downing a team who fought to the last atom of their powers. Canterbury gave of their best and went down fighting, losing gallantly to opponents who proved themselves unquestionably the finest side which has visited Christchurch for some years.

"A wonderfully well-balanced side, equipped with weight, speed, stamina and brains, Hawkes Bay played an inspired game and so complete was their dominance in the second half that the scoring machine, which the Canterbury back line

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was supposed to be, was put out of action.

"Oliver was undoubtedly the best back on the ground and Evans who played opposite him had a very hard time. In Smith, Hawkes Bay had a powerful and dangerous wing-threequarter of All Black calibre; Steere and Collins were outstanding in the forwards."

Norman McKenzie had got together a most likely looking side, which critics thought might develop into a great combination in the style of their famous 1926 team. It was not to be. They were defeated by Otago 9-8 a few days later, and again by Southland 15-11.

Hawkes Bay survived a challenge from Wanganui 39-16, and another from Taranaki 23-8, before going down to Auckland on 8th September at Napier by 18-14.

The men from the Queen City were bright and enterprising. In the first spell the play was fast and exciting with plenty of scoring movements.

Auckland

L. K. Heazlewood (Manukau)

J. D. Hammon (Grammar)

T. H. Caughey (Uni.) E. G. Kedgley (Uni.)

E. Hedge (Otahuhu) C. Murdock (Tech. O.B.)

M. Corner (Grammar)

R. Smith (Grafton)

A. Knight (Grammar), Ross (College Rifles),

H. F. McLean (Grafton), Pepper (Manukau),

W. Hadley (Marist, T. H. Pearce (Manukau),

R. G. Bush (Uni.)

This was a very strong forward team containing five All Blacks. Tom Pearce is the very vital person who controls the destiny of the Auckland Union. Hedge was rated as a player of unusual promise.

Each side notched three tries and a penalty, but Auckland converted all their tries while the Bay improved only one. The first try came from a movement started by Corner who sent Caughey away to touch down in the corner. Hazelwood raised the flags. Auckland 5 nil.

The next try was started from an opening made by Corner 20 yards out. He passed to Hedge who flashed through the defence, Hazelwood converted. Auckland 10-nil. This young man Hedge was hailed as a second Cooke, but he shone for two seasons only. I understand he suffered severe injuries and had to give up the game. Hawkes Bay then scored, 10-3. They added to their score with a try by Apsley, 10-6. The half time score was 18-6 in favour of the challengers. The scoring showed up in the second spell, when Charlie Smith, the brilliant Bay wing, barged his way over for a try, and a little later LeQuenesne added three points with a penalty. The final score Auckland 18, Hawkes Bay 14.

An All Black team toured Australia in 1934. This was the first New Zealand touring side to play the three-fronted scrum, but the magic which

had surrounded the game for years was gone. This was just another football team, in contrast to the mana of the men of 1905.

A. A. Thomson in the captivating book, "Rugger My Pleasure," describes Gallaher's team thus: "This was the first touring side from New Zealand which ravaged the home countries as though with fire and sword and, up to a point, tore through all the opposition as if it were so much tissue paper; this dazzling side carried everything before it; like a cowcatcher on a continental train, until, half way through their tour, they met Wales and their Waterloo."

Mr. Thomson should be corrected. The Welsh game was the 26th match.

Auckland was not to enjoy the Shield for long. On July 3rd 1934 they repulsed a challenge by North Auckland by 19-8. It is paradoxical that Auckland, who in the days of their greatness could not give away the Shield, ran with the worst possible luck now. They were never able to get a hold on the trophy. No one thought that the Canterbury team would have a chance of regaining the Shield.

Beating Auckland in practically all departments of the game, Canterbury scored its first victory against Auckland since 1892. In a thrilling and spectacular finish Auckland made desperate efforts to save the day and almost succeeded, but the defence held.

With the time up, Canterbury were penalised in their own twenty-five, and Bush, who was in fine kicking form, kicked two penalty goals and potted a goal, missed the three points which would have enabled Auckland to retain the Shield.

The Canterbury team was decidedly superior in the backs, while the forwards held their opponents well, and gave the rearguard splendid support. There was far more precision and snap in the visiting backs, who always appeared likely to bring off unexpected moves.

Cleverly changing tactics, their rearguard had the opposition guessing on many occasions. The strong running and penetration of their players was an object lesson which could have been followed by the Auckland inside men.

Only the fine play of Bush the Auckland full-back saved his team from heavier defeat. His magnificent defence, in the first half especially, was the stumbling block to several scoring movements.

The better finish of Canterbury's side may be judged from the fact that it scored four tries and Auckland crossed the visitors line but once. The winners played the type of open football which appealed to the spectators and, although mistakes were made, it was easily seen that with the least opportunity, the team was a dangerous scoring combination. The ability of the backs and the fast raiding loose rushes of the Canterbury forwards proved a thorn in the side of the Auckland backs.

An outstanding game was played by Polson at centre; and he fulfilled a reputation which had preceded him. Parsons and Mortlock combined well and showed a marked ability to cut through. The forwards played as a team and Deavoll, Thompson and Rankin shone out. Canterbury 16, Auckland 13.

Auckland

R. Bush
J. Carney E. Neale E. Grant
C. Murdock E. Hedge
W. Frankham
W. Hadley, H. Bond, H. Brown, T. Lockington,
K. Weber, J. Butler, R. Henderson, D. Solomon.

Canterbury

G. B. Eathorne
H. Dunshea J. G. Polson W. Brown
K. S. Mortlock G. Parsons
J. McAuliffe
S. W. Thompson, P. Burke, J. O. Hattersley,
E. W. Thompson, G. Howell, W. Sweeney, H.
Deavoll, J. G. Rankin.

Having risen to great heights against Auckland, Canterbury then sat back, and in the match against Hawkes Bay, played four days later, were badly beaten 24-5; a pale shadow of their previous form. They then went down to Wellington by 11-8.

As it turned out, the Auckland form was a flash in the pan. Canterbury resisted a challenge from Wairarapa by 27-16. Southland was beaten 8-3, West Coast 18-11, and South Canterbury 12-11.

With five minutes to go, South Canterbury were ahead by 11-9, and Hattersley barged across in the dying moments to put the Shield beyond doubt. The challengers were indeed unlucky, as it was generally conceded that the ball received by Hattersley was not thrown the required 5 yards. For Canterbury, the sands were running out. It was Otago's hour.

Otago, too, had more than its share of bad luck. In 1904, the first year of the Shield's existence, Otago was narrowly beaten by Wellington by 15 to 13, and for thirty years they had striven to possess the trophy. Now the hour of their triumph was at hand.

Otago

W. T. McFarland
J. M. Watt H. Smith A. C. Proctor
D. Trevathan C. Gillies
C. Saxton
C. Quaid, W. Laney, G. M. McDonald, F. J. Green, A. Parkhill, E. Murphy, L. Niven, R. Nieper.

The winners prevailed by 17-6 in a game which was full of incident, though lacking in high-class back play. The tackling on both sides was first class. Otago led 7-6 at half time.

The second spell was remarkable for the fact that, after a torrid struggle in the early stages, Canterbury dominated the play for 20 minutes, just missing tries by inches, but gaps unexpectedly developed in the home defence. Otago made no mistake and pressed home their advantage.

Canterbury were beaten in the last quarter mainly because of mistakes in their backs. Otago won because of the footwork of their forwards, and the accurate kicking of their inside backs.

Otago's points came from three tries, one converted, and a great field goal by Trevathan, whose phenomenal success as goal kicker distorted his general capacity as a player.

Otago had been on their northern tour when they suffered a 6-5 defeat by Wellington, 17-11 by Taranaki, and had two wins 17-11 over Auckland and 15-7 over Waikato.

So, unhonoured and unsung, they came to Christchurch, but shrewdly brought up reserves from Dunedin; C. Gillies and H. Smith, who, with Charlie Saxton, brought victory.

OTAGO PLAYS SOUND FOOTBALL IN 1936

The new holders were worthy of the best traditions of the game. Although not perhaps in the same class of the great Otago side of the post-war era, coached by the masterly Cavanagh, they were nevertheless capable of producing high grade football.

The first challenge came from Southland. This produced the first large scale mass movement of supporters. Eleven special trains brought over 5000 vocal Southlanders to cheer on the maroons.

Otago

J. M. Taylor
W. A. Black H. Smith J. M. Watt

D. Trevathan C. Gillies
H. Simon

G. McDonald, W. Lucey, C. Quaid, A. Parkhill, F. Vorrath, F. J. Green, L. Niven, J. Hore.

The playing area was covered in a thick carpet of snow, which had been rolled off first and shovelled into heaps around the perimeter of the ground. The first spell was fairly even and though Otago led by 10-nil at half time, the game was far from won.

In the second spell, Otago was generally in the ascendancy though the heavy ground kept the score down, but the holders were definitely supreme.

"Trevathan was on the slow side; but he again proved of value to his side by scoring a field goal and dropping another from forty yards out, adding a penalty to boot. Gillies was the most penetrating back on the ground." Otago 16 Southland 3.

The next challenge came from Manawatu. It was a very close call. Generally this was a somewhat flat and uninteresting game, retrieved by an exciting finish. Five minutes before the final whistle, Otago were called upon to defend strongly in an effort to retain the lead of 6 points, which consisted of two penalty goals. Manawatu had scored a converted try, and fielded a fine pack of forwards who, as a pack, had an advantage of 9 stone over the defenders.

Led by McKenzie, Sutton and Sullivan they played a tireless game, and carried off the honours of the match. They harried the Otago backs, and, in the second spell gave a great display, the spectators thus forming the impression that the Shield might well have gone to the challengers.

The Otago backs were not convincing; they missed Gillies, and to make matters worse Trevathan had a day off. He gave a poor display in the first spell when he attempted field goals, and kicked in a manner which must have been exasperating to his inside backs. Otago 12, Manawatu 9.

The third challenge came from South Canterbury. They were overwhelmed. The Otago forwards immediately took charge and dominated the game, and their superiority in every department became more marked as the game progressed. They gave a magnificent display of team work and hooked the ball continuously.

Saxton, the other half, gave a clever display, and Trevathan showed the value of a good boot; he accounted for 15 of his side's points two field goals, a try and three conversions.

Then came Canterbury, who were also decisively beaten. It may be said that they were without some of their best men in Behrns, Eat-horne, Cobden, Chinnery and Cooper; but, be that as it may, even with their best men, the result would not have been different.

The match was played in a slippery and sodden ground, but this made little difference to the holders, who played sparkling football, and dominated the game from start to finish. It was not a day for passing movements. Otago showed such uniform speed and thrust as to indicate that the match would have been no different on a dry ground.

Otago on the day were a great forward pack. Their entire eight hunted as an entity, and individuals can be singled out only for outstanding work in special directions, such as Hore for leadership, and Green and Vorrath for their following up.

Canterbury made a great tactical mistake in trying to open up the play in those conditions, which could not hope to succeed. Vorrath, Laney, and Smith scored tries, Trevathan a penalty goal, and two conversions. Otago 16, Canterbury nil.

North Auckland was next to take the count to the tune of 30 points. Snow fell the previous day, and the score was only 5-nil at half time. The Otago forwards gave their usual fine display, and Trevathan once again had his kicking boots on and contributed 15 of his side's points.

Then Wellington went the way of all others by 16-3. Trevathan was once again useful, scoring a try, a conversion and a penalty goal. The blue forwards again played a beautiful game, running Wellington off their feet. Gillies was the outstanding back, being brilliant on defence, and was ably supported by Fookes at centre.

The curtain was rung down on a most successful season by the West Coast fixture. Twenty four thousand saw this game, and wild enthusiasm marked the closing scenes; the crowd invading the playing area and carrying the players shoulder high. Again, the Otago forwards played magnificently, particularly Hore Vorrath and Green. Fookes played classic football at centre, and Gillies always dangerous, but with Trevathan not so prominent as usual. Otago 30, West Coast 0.

Trevathan had amassed the great total of 204 points for the season.

An Australian side toured New Zealand, losing seven out of 12 games. They were an undistinguished side. They lost the first Test at Wellington by 11-6. New Zealand overwhelmed them in the second Test by 38-13.

New Zealand

	Pollock	
	Mitchell	
Hart		Watt
	Griffiths	Gillies
	Sadler	
Rankin, Ward, Reid, King, Wells, Jackson, Hadley, Dalton.		

Australia's strength lay in the three-quarters—McLean (Queensland), Rankin, McLaughlin and Kelehar of Sydney. Their forwards who found the going heavy, included Hodgson and Walden of Sydney, and Bonis of Queensland. On the day, New Zealand were decidedly the better side. Twenty-seven thousand people were roused to a high pitch of excitement, and the weather was fine.

The first half was evenly contested, with the margin, if any, in favour of Australia. In the second half, the game assumed a different aspect. The black forwards and backs combined as a team and fairly swamped the opposition. The Australians were given few chances of scoring, which was a surprising change in a match of international status.

***Hard driving forwards
and fast backing up -
be points ahead with -***



THE MASTERPIECE IN OILS

The performance of New Zealand after being down at half time, was highly meritorious and rather brightened the outlook for the matches against South Africa in the following year.

The pace throughout was lively, with New Zealand feeling the effect of it in the first half, but it was the All Blacks who ultimately had the better stamina and were going more strongly at the finish. In the end the All Black pack was constantly sweeping to the attack, and was winning the ball from all positions, to open up the play with apparent ease.

In the New Zealand backs there were undoubtedly some players who showed brilliance, and among them Gillies ranked high. It was his thrilling straight dashes which opened up the way for three of the tries in the second half. Sadler was a half of undoubted class, but Griffiths was rather uncertain as "second." Mitchell was a centre of fine calibre whose straight running played havoc with the Australian defence.

The Black forwards were inclined to struggle in the first half; but in the second, were a hundred per cent. as a pack. All New Zealand thought, and with justification, that they had the answer to the Springbok menace, but they had not taken into consideration, human frailty. The selectors were very human and made some understandable mistakes, but many that were not understandable.

It was agreed in 1936 that we had the players to hold the Springboks, and anyone in Dunedin on September 12th 1936 would subscribe to this view. They would not have thought it possible that, less than a year later, on August 14th 1937, in the first Test against South Africa at Wellington, a New Zealand team took the field containing only four of the team which faced Australia in Dunedin the previous September.

Not one of the backs was retained, and only five forwards in King, Dalton, Jackson, Reid and Ward. This is what trials do, particularly when you have provincial prejudice.

Owing to the Springbok visit, only one Shield match was played in 1937. This was at Dunedin on July 31st. There was a bumper attendance of 35,000 with the gate takings over £2,000.

For the winners, Wesney kicked a penalty goal and scored a try between the posts, which he converted. Vorrath scored an unconverted try for the defenders and Trevathan a potted goal. Southland 12, Otago 7.

It was a dourly contested game between two fine packs of forwards, which battled hard all the way to gain supremacy. Though there was little between the packs, some good concerted work inspired by Sutherland was responsible for victory.

The Southland rearguard was sound and made full use of the occasional lapses of the Otago backs. Simon, at half, played a fine game, but Trevathan's lack of thrust crippled the remainder of the back division and his kicking, with the exception of the dropped goal, was far below his usual standard. If he had succeeded with two comparatively easy shots at goal, Otago may well have won.

The winning Southland team:

W. E. Ruff

R. H. Henderson

A. G. Sutherland

A. W. Wesney

G. P. Thomas

A. C. Miles

J. Purdue

C. George, J. Mattingly, V. George, E. R. Chesterman, R. H. Ward, Irwin, J. Hamilton, W. L. Crawford.

OTAGO IN THE PICTURE AGAIN

Southland was not to enjoy the Shield for long, and on July 30th 1938 Otago won the trophy back by 7-6. Southland, three weeks previously, had defeated Bay of Plenty by 5-3 in a non-Shield game. This little known team must have been quite a side. They drew with Canterbury 8-all and defeated Otago 9 to 6.

On paper there did not appear to be very much between Otago and Southland, and this is borne out by results. On August 10th Canterbury, also early to tour, went down to Otago by 16-7 at Dunedin.

But Otago played a very good game back and forward, and though the latter may not have been as good as the Southland forwards, its backs had that necessary speed which distinguishes good

rearguards.

Southland had to send the ball out, in spite of the obvious wisdom of keeping it tight, for its forwards were baulked in their attempts to break through the Otago pack. Southland found it necessary to give the ball to its backs, which was just what Otago wanted.

When play was thus opened up, the pace of the Otago men enabled them to get up to their opponents in time to smother them. But there was no doubt about the maroon forwards, they played brilliantly. The work of Crawford, Metcalfe and Hamilton was as good as anything seen on Rugby Park for years.

There wasn't much in it; Otago's seven points made up of an unconverted try and a dropped

goal to two penalty goals.

The successful challengers:

	D. Trevathan	
L. Warner	W. Perriam	W. J. Black
M. Spillane	C. Gillies	
	W. Campbell	
J. Mahoney, A. G. McDonald, M. McClelland,		
F. Vorrath, T. Morrison, L. Niven, D. Hamilton,		
F. Garty.		

The next challenge came from South Canterbury. This was a game marked by solid encounters between the forwards. At half-time Otago led 17-6. On the day's play, Otago held advantage and thoroughly deserved to win.

Five players who had just returned from the surprisingly successful Australian tour by the All Blacks were seen to advantage. The best of them was Saxton, who was always close to the ball and made several penetrating runs which bore out the high reputation he had made on the tour.

Otago's score was made up of two penalty goals by Taylor, two field goals by Trevathan, and tries by Parkhill, Taylor and McLelland, and a conversion by Taylor. Total 27. For South Canterbury, Morrison scored all the points, four penalties and a field goal, 16 points. Trevathan added one more to his long list of dropped goals, and Berghan and Gillies were brilliant.

Otago met Taranaki on September 3rd and won by 14-3. In six games no one had crossed the defenders' line. In striking contrast with the Hawke's Bay game, the match was played on a greasy ground and the Otago forwards, knowing there was only one thing to do, attacked strongly from the kick-off.

Then the Shield was lost to Southland by 10-5. This was a game played before 30,000 people and in perfect weather on a fast ground. Otago were weakened by the absence of Simon, Gillies and Trevathan. Mitchell took the field for the first time for Otago.

Here is the winning Southland team:

	J. Ballantyne	
R. G. Mahoney	A. W. Wesney	W. Milne
M. P. Grace	A. G. Sutherland	
	J. Purdue	
V. George, W. G. Sheriffs, C. George, J. Purdue,		
T. Metcalfe, D. B. Herron, G. H. Graham, J. Hamilton, W. L. Crawford.		

Wellington was the first to challenge. The new holders prevailed by two unconverted tries and a field goal to a try.

The ground was slippery and the players had difficulty in gaining a foothold. The conditions did not prevent them from playing good football. On the contrary, they excelled themselves,

and the result was a brilliant game in which the magnificent forward play of the Southlanders more than offset the comparative absence of spectacular combined work by the backs.

In the next game, the holders had a lucky break. If everyone had had their deserts, Ashburton would have had the Shield. This match was played in bright sunshine in good weather. The game ended sensationally, Ashburton taking the lead two minutes before time, with Southland fighting back, and scoring the winning points right on the bell. 20-16.

Southland opened the scoring when Herron touched down in a scramble on the line, 3-nil. Saxton was getting a feast of the ball from the Southland forwards but his backs were not handling well and many opportunities were lost. Then Herron scored again, making it 6-nil in the holders' favour.

Ashburton then opened their account, a try coming from a fine combined movement. 6-3. Ashburton played with great dash for the remainder of the spell. The second half was full of incidents. With five minutes to go, Ashburton took the lead 16-15. The enthusiasm of the crowd was unbridled. The maroon forwards made strenuous efforts to get over. There were two scrums on the Ashburton line. Graham scored and Herron converted, bringing Southland's total to 20.

The crowd rushed the ground, booing the referee, apparently harbouring the delusion that he had everything to do with Ashburton's fine performance. As a matter of fact, most unbiassed people thought that Ashburton were exceedingly unlucky.

The All Black side which went to Australia in 1938 showed what good selection can do. The sides picked by the panel the previous year were not good. Everybody now sees this.

Ted McKenzie, a rare judge of players, brought on several new players in Saxton, Tindall, Berghan and Wesney in the backs, and Williams, V. George, Carson, Bowman, Milliken and Quaid in the forwards. After the dismal performance of the 1937 side, this was a startling success, winning all the matches, scoring 279 points to 73. Australia was defeated by 14-9, 20-14 and 14-6.

In Southland, 1939 was a record year. In the first four games for the Shield, the province scored 128 points with only 7 points against. Their line was not crossed.

Otago was defeated 23 to 4, Manawatu 17 to 3. Bush 38 to 10, and Ashburton 50 to nil. A remarkable feature of Southland's tenure of the Shield was the extraordinarily low number

of the Shield squad, some 35 players. This is the lowest figure on record. They went on tour and suffered defeat only once, at the hands of Taranaki by 3 to nil.

On the tour, they played Canterbury, winning by 10-8, in a game which rose to great heights and hailed as one of the most perfect exhibitions of football seen in inter-provincial games for many a year. Canterbury, on their home ground, offered a magnificent challenge to Southland's unbeaten record.

It was fought with superbly sustained ruggedness and fire, and was marked by unrelenting defence on the part of both teams, and yet the brilliance of players individually, and in combination contributed spectacular moments in constant succession.

Southland

J. W. Fleming

A. G. Sutherland A. W. Wesney R. G. Mahoney
C. K. Saxton M. P. Grace

G. Purdue

A. L. Marshall, D. B. Herron, R. H. Ward, S. Purdue; L. George, W. G. Sheriff, C. Soper, G. H. Graham.

Canterbury

G. T. Nolan

R. L. Roberts A. G. Hunter J. Ballantyne
W. Burgess F. R. Allen

J. J. McAuliffe

N. McPhail, S. Campbell, C. W. Williams, J. Rankin, G. S. Walter, T. Knowles, P. K. Rhind, W. A. Hearn.

These teams were to supply four members of the famous Kiwis in Saxton, Allen, Rhind and McPhail. Fred Allen is the present Auckland selector.

The game against Ashburton on August 26th 1939 was the last Shield fixture till 1946. Southland won by 50 to nil. Great happenings of shattering import were to change the lives of everyone in the intervening years.

The year 1939 was marked by the emergence of a great football combination in Christchurch University. They were, perhaps, one of the fastest and most dazzling teams of club history.

In two years they held the crowd spellbound with their sparkling football. In Cartwright, Hunter and Fountain they had a line as great as Gilray, Adams and McPherson, and, if the war had not come along Hunter would have made a great name in South Africa in 1940. Of the three, Fountain was a track runner with a victory over Dunn, the crack Australian sprinter.

In 15 games, they scored 281 points with 113 against, a total not reached for many a year. Here is the team which took the field against

Athletic on July 31st, 1939:

Martin Donnelly

J. S. Cartwright A. G. Hunter M. D. Fountain
H. M. Kimberley A. L. Ellis

J. McAuliffe

H. E. Garrett, G. T. Wilson, J. N. Murphy, C. C. Foote, P. D. Lynch, C. W. Williams, G. S. Walter, P. G. Roberts.

The University forwards were an exceedingly solid, well-knit pack. Everyone gave of his best. Cartwright scored 11 out of his team's total of 14 points and made several dashing runs. Hunter, at centre, played an impressive game, showing exceptional judgment.

But it was Donnelly, the famous left-hander, who took the eye that day. He took the brunt of the Athletic attack and with their forwards bearing down on him, time and time again, broke their hearts by great kicks.

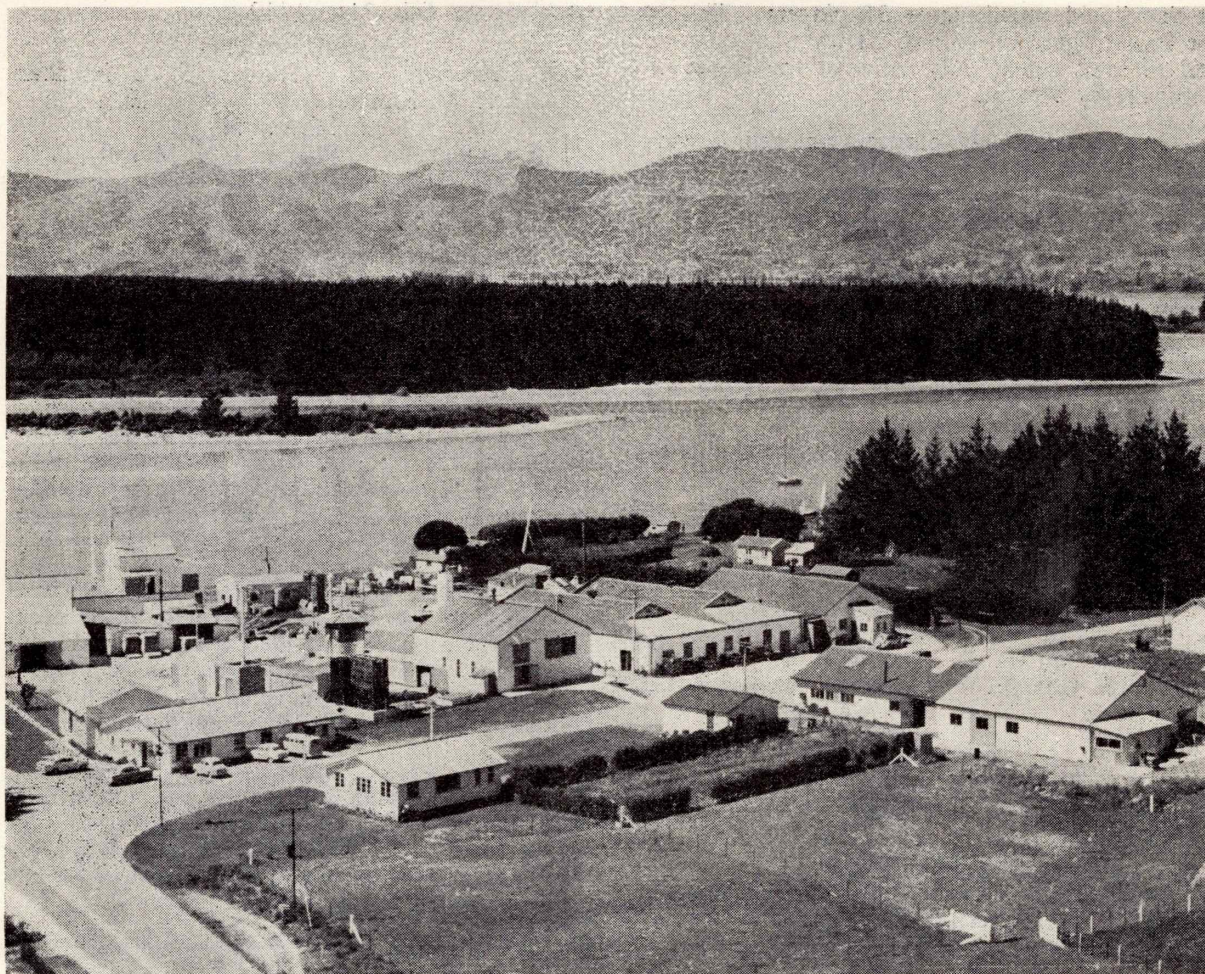
In his size, I think, the "squib," as we used to call him, was one of the greatest all-rounders ever. He was a record holder on the track, and his tennis would have put him in top class. Charlie Saxton told me that if Donnelly had been available he would have played him in the Kiwis.

Kimberley and Ellis were the tallest and straightest running pair of five-eighths seen for many a day. Fed by Jack McAuliffe, they were able to send their three-quarters away in many telling passing rushes.

But if anything was to pinpoint the brilliance of this team, it was the match against Otago University which saw the maroons gain their greatest victory over their old opponents. Dunedin was leading in the Dunedin competition and fielded its usual clever fifteen, including W. N. Paewai, but they couldn't foot it with the locals, who scored 18 points in the first half. The tries were so brilliant that they were described in detail in the press.

"The Canterbury College tries in the first half were outstanding; in the first Hunter, the centre, fended off his opposite number, raced to the full-back and sent Cartwright away, flying over the line. The second was even more brilliant. Cartwright threw the ball in quickly to Ellis, the first 'five,' after it had gone deep in the home twenty-five and the pair exchanged passes to beat man after man, in a great straight running dash, along the side line; Cartwright being left with a clear field for 50 yards.

"Hunter made the opening for the next try, but this time Cartwright had to face the full-back, and he cross-kicked neatly to a solid group of his forwards bearing down quickly, Roberts scoring. Finally Fountain showed speed and an



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eye for an opening when he shot through a gap in some loose play to pass to Roberts who dummied his way under the posts in expert style."

The final score: 26-3.

In 1939, trials were held in Wellington for the All Black tour of South Africa which was due in 1940. The inside backs in the inter-island match were Saxton and Perriam for South, and Tindall, Reid and Pearson for north. North were defeated 15-19.

In the subsequent trials, Reid of Hawke's Bay

was the outstanding five-eighths. He partnered the unlucky Crossman, and these two were far too good for the New Zealand trial side.

Hunter of Canterbury, who had been overlooked by Canterbury's own sole selector, was, by the pressure of public opinion, nominated for the trials, and was acclaimed the greatest success of the day. Had he gone to Africa he would have emerged as a centre of great power. The melancholy recital of selectors' shortcomings appears to be the outstanding feature of most seasons.

THE KIWIS' FINE RECORD

The war of 1914-18 saw very little adult Rugby played in New Zealand, but the Second World War was entirely different. The war being in the Pacific as well, large bodies of troops were held in New Zealand. Fortress areas, encampments and aerodromes abounded.

A unit moved into Lancaster Park occupying Stands One, Two and Four. Football matches were played on the oval, though. The senior clubs found it hard to keep going, so many amalgamations took place. These, with the service teams, enabled the game to proceed. In 1941, some 50 rep. matches were played, plus seven service games.

The year next there were fewer inter-union fixtures, 21, and 45 service games. The year 1943 there were 30 inter-union fixtures and 14 service matches. Things were more normal in 1944, with 48 games all told, including ten service matches.

With the cessation of hostilities in 1945, several important fixtures were resumed. A New Zealand fifteen defeated the combined services by 29-13 and the South Island defeated the North by 31-19 at Auckland.

The inside backs for the South were J. S. Haig, R. Elvidge, and M. P. Grace, while Paewai, Burchard and Sorenson were fielded for the North. Pat Callanan, at full-back, was in rare kicking form for the South, scoring 16 points.

Overseas, there were the usual numerous football matches wherever New Zealand soldiers foregathered. In the Middle East in 1941 and 1942 a very good combination was gathered together, comprising many experienced players. They defeated Combined Services 34-5, Rest of Egypt 22-0, and Rest of Cairo 44-6. They included J. L. Sullivan, 2nd Infantry Batt.; Gunner W. I. Perriman, Artillery Training Depot; 2/Lt. T. C. Morrison, Army Ordnance; and Pte. W. Burgess, 4th Company Field Ambulance.

There were four well-known forwards in 2/Lt. J. Finlay, Central Infantry Training Depot; Pte. F. G. Hobbs, 18th Infantry Battalion; Pte. A.

Mahoney, 22 Infantry Battalion; and L/Bombardier A. Lambourn, 6th Field Artillery Regiment. This combination played during the period when the Division was engaged with the 8th Army in the Western Desert.

The Services team in England in 1944-45 did not have anything like the success of their counterpart of 1918-19. The reason, of course, was that they only had a small number to call upon in the United Kingdom, as compared with World War I. In the last war, many thousands of Rugby men were held in the Pacific.

The record of this United Kingdom's side was nothing to boast about, for, in 20 games they went down to South Wales 34-14, South African Services 16-8, Wasps 20-9, Paris University 12-11, and Cardiff 22-11.

But the side which arose from these matches, and known as the "Kiwis" led by Charlie Saxton, developed into a most attractive combination and though defeated by Scotland, had victories over Ireland and England.

Their second record was quite remarkable, as, out of 33 games they won 29, drew two, and lost two; scoring 609 points to 185. Comparisons are inevitably made between the 1945 Kiwis and the 1919 Army team, but there is little basis of comparisons. The latter's assistant manager, Major V. C. Butler, while in New Zealand, wanted to see what lesson the team had learned on the tours and what their influence would be on New Zealand Rugby.

He maintained that very few of the Kiwis had reached representative standard in New Zealand and, in fact, a number had not played senior football. But by playing bright football and concentrating on fundamentals, they had moulded into a combination approximating North or South Island standard.

Now, the one great difference was that the Kiwis comprised quite a number of players who were more or less recent arrivals. The old Army team, on the other hand, comprised a large pro-

portion of veterans who had long football experience behind them in 1914. In 1919 their forwards were hard and tough.

I do not think that the Kiwis could have faced an arduous tour of the South African Union, as did Charlie Brown's team. His backs were very seasoned players. But, here I think the advantage was definitely with the Kiwis whose rearguard were much younger and more dashing.

The 1919 combination hadn't a back to compare with J. B. Smith, whose down-the-centre play was unrivalled. He made innumerable openings, and few players in our history have ever made their wings look as good as he did; not that the wings were not good. Argus, Sherratt and Boggs were top class, with the former perhaps not bettered in either team.

Under the genius of Charlie Saxton, the team combination reached an all-time high, for a team not nationally chosen. Allen, Dobson, Proctor and Meates fitted into a machine-like unit.

There were two star full-backs in H. E. Cook and R. W. H. Scott who couldn't be separated on the machine.

Fourteen of the Kiwis were eventually capped for New Zealand. They opened their New Zealand tour against Auckland on July 20th 1946. The result was a draw, 20-all.

The tour undertaken by the Kiwis in New Zealand was an outstanding success. They played some of the leading unions and were voted the most attractive side seen in years. They drew with Auckland 20-all in the brightest and most open game seen in Auckland for a long time.

In the first 20 minutes of the game, the tourists played a dazzling game and refused to play safe, though 12 points to the good, but continued to throw the ball about.

In their next game they accounted for Wairapa Bush by 21 to 10. Then came the memorable game against Canterbury in which the tourists played a new brand of Rugby which left the crowd gasping.

"Extremely fast and remarkably fit, the Kiwis handled the ball with complete confidence and showed an understanding which was at once the despair of the defence and the delight of the on-lookers. If advocates of the strictly orthodox felt any misgiving at the risks taken by the winning side, their doubts were as nothing accorded one of the best exhibitions of passing seen for many years.

"The pace at which the game was played can be measured by the fact that the match had been in progress for 23 minutes before the forwards went down in the first set scrum. This, in itself, showed what whirlwind Rugby it was. The two foremost features of the Kiwi play were the manner in which the ball was got away to the backs and the intensive backing up of these backs."

Then came the match against Otago, who perhaps had the best back division among the provinces: Haig, Elvidge, Perriam, Botting, Deas and Moore. They couldn't, however, do much with the speed and thrust of the Army men. The score at half-time was 3-all, but the turning point came early in the second spell, when Allen potted a goal and, for a few hectic minutes the Kiwis, taking all the risks imaginable and playing most enterprising football, dominated the play to finish winners by 19-8.

The game against Wellington was a sad anticlimax. In the matter of open play, the Wellingtonians wouldn't play ball and though there was nothing at stake, plainly indicated they wanted the Kiwi scalp. They got it. The victors gained a pyrrhic victory.

BACK TO THE SHIELD AGAIN

The Ranfurly Shield series resumed after the war with a game between Southland the holders and their rivals Otago. Although the country districts had very little football during the war, the selectors put a team in the field which rapidly moulded into a first-class fifteen, though not comparable with that of Otago a year or so later.

Southland

T. R. Webster

A. G. Sutherland E. G. Walker A. S. Chandler
R. F. Waldron N. J. Bennett

E. D. Calder

J. R. Stuck, R. Hazlett, O. M. Brown, T. A. Budd, S. R. Pittaway, G. H. Cameron, J. A. McRae, G. Spittle.

Of this side, Sutherland, McRae and Budd played for the South in 1946. This was a game played in atrocious ground conditions at Wellington—conditions so bad that the game was abandoned after 25 minutes' play in the second spell.

In this first Shield encounter Southland prevailed by a penalty goal to nil.

Three weeks later the holders repulsed a challenge from Canterbury 11-3, a goal and two penalty goals to a try. It can be said with complete truth that neither of these narrow victories had overmuch merit in them.

Both Otago and Canterbury were openly critical of the refereeing, and it was their experi-

ence which brought about the laudable practice of having the Shield matches controlled by outside referees. Southland faced three more challenges in 1946, defeating South Canterbury by 35-9, Wairarapa 12-3 and North Otago 15-3.

The Maroons defeated Australia 8-6.

Unlike New Zealand, with the war being closer to home, Australia faced the post-war years under a handicap. It was obvious that they could not hope for much success against sides which had functioned normally throughout the war years.

But right from the beginning of the tour their backs played in an attractive manner, the snappy passing, straight running and speed of the whole division being a feature of their play. As the tour progressed the forwards improved, and, learning quickly, by the end of the tour they were a complete match for New Zealand's best.

They had some attractive backs, too, of whom the star was Eastes, a fast winger with a beautiful swerve. He was later an enormous success in England. Then there was an up-and-coming half from Newcastle in Burke who, believe it or not, played against the Springboks in 1956 and New Zealand in 1957.

The centre was Allen, of Sydney. Trevor Allen was probably the most famous of Australian Rugby Union centres. Piper at full-back measured up to the best standards.

They also had some solid forwards in Windon, Hardcastle, Cook and McLean, their captain. In the first test played at Dunedin New Zealand defeated them 31-8; but in the second, a fortnight later, the tourists showed much improved form and were beaten by 14-10.

The Cavanagh Era

The year 1947 witnessed the rise of the great Otago team which, for three years, guided by the genius of V. G. Cavanagh junr., were to gain many notable victories and to play football of rare quality. Though there was at first a lack of fire and dash in the forwards, who were in need of an inspiring leader, this was to come. The best back was J. S. Haig, whose fast and well-directed passes were of great value to his side. Elvidge was yet to develop.

The side produced real Rugby, with an ability to stay the distance successfully, taking charge in the second spell. One important point in their success was the combination which was achieved, mainly due to the fact that the selectors were enabled to keep their side intact. The pack was the same in most of the Shield games.

Otago took the Shield from Southland on August 2nd 1947. The Otago team:

	R. W. Orr	
G. T. Moore	J. M. Tanner	I. Botting
R. R. Elvidge	I. A. Colquhoun	
	A. C. McIndoe	

P. Johnstone, H. L. Skinner, L. Hamilton, A. Foster, C. Willocks, L. R. Harvey, J. McNab, K. O'Connor.

It was the speed of the challengers' backs which gave them victory by 17-11. The Southland forwards conceded 7 stone in weight in the scrums, but proved their great strength and tenacity by winning a majority of the line-outs. But for their good work, Southland would have been beaten more decisively.

As it was, Otago's victory was much more clearly defined than the six points which separated the teams. Southland did not deserve to win. Their backs played disappointingly, particularly their insides whose defence was faulty. Elvidge scored two tries, beating the middle defence with ease. He played a captain's game, running strongly, making openings and defending resolutely. The crowd paid £2320 to see this game—a record.

Otago's first challenge came from North Auckland, a very strong side comprising some most vigorous Maori players in Cherrington, Rika, W.N. Paewai, and the two Smiths, Johnny and Peter. Magnificent team work, coupled with concerted forward play, plus superior pace and combination of the backs enabled Otago to record a victory by 31-11. The Otago forwards outplayed the challengers, displaying marked superiority in scrums and rucks.

For North Auckland, J. B. Smith came through with flying colours and was always endeavouring to make play for his wings. For Otago, Kearney, playing his first game for the province for six years, was brilliant. Elvidge and Tanner were a menace in down-the-centre play.

For Otago Tanner, Woodhouse, Moore and Kearney scored tries. Kearney dropped a goal, and Orr, the Otago custodian, had a field day. He kicked three penalty goals and converted three tries. For North Auckland, the ex-Otago Varsity half Paewai scored a try and Cherrington put over three penalties.

A week before coming South, North Auckland had a surprise victory over a strong Auckland side by 19-17. North Auckland performed under more difficulties than any other team in the country; it is the most scattered. The union has five sub-unions, Whangarei, Bay of Islands, Mangonui, Northern Wairoa and Rodney. Out of 22 players called upon in 1948, only eight came from Whangarei itself.

Then came Auckland's challenge. Few sides took the field so sanguine of victory. There was no thought of defeat. There was some measure of justification for this attitude, for Auckland had many good players to feed from, an embarrassment of riches, in fact.

They were defeated only four times in 15 games, going down to North Auckland, Otago, South Canterbury and Wellington, the scores in

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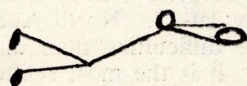
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the last two games being 24-8 and 24-18. They were unquestionably a strong side with their clear-cut victories over such strong combinations as Canterbury (21-13), Taranaki (36-16), Waikato (24-3) and Southland 10-3.

The teams lined as follows:

Auckland

	R. W. Scott	
E. G. Boggs	L. W. Deas	J. M. Dunn
	P. Tetzlaff	
J. Ewart	J. M. Tanner	
G. S. McDonald, M. J. McHugh, D. L. Christian,		
A. J. West, P. J. Crowley, J. G. Simpson, A. R. Storey, A. M. Hughes.		

Otago

	L. S. Haig	
G. T. Moore	J. M. Tanner	I. Botting
R. R. Elvidge	J. C. Kearney	
	D. H. Woodhouse	
P. Johnstone, K. L. Skinner, D. H. Hamilton,		
C. Willocks, L. R. Harvey, J. R. McNab, A. H. Foster, K. J. O'Connor.		

This combination was adhered to in the Shield engagements in Dunedin, and the fact that they were able to call upon the same set time after time was probably one of the chief factors in their success.

A further factor was the large proportion of country players called upon. Hamilton hailed from Roxburgh, Willocks from Clutha, Harvey from Matakanaui, and McNab from Owaka. This practice is very sound, and it is not for nothing that those provinces who have had a long tenure of the Shield have, in season and out, relied on country material—Southland, Otago, Waikato and Canterbury.

The play: Twenty-five thousand people, on a Wednesday, saw Otago make a magnificent recovery in the second spell to put the matter beyond doubt. The best back on the ground was Elvidge, who was outstanding. Kearney was excellent throughout. Strangely enough, the Otago forwards in the first half appeared to lack the vim of the Auckland pack, but they came to light in the second spell and, led by O'Connor, Willocks and Foster, dominated the scene.

After a brilliant opening, the Auckland backs faded in the second spell. Their "first five" Ewart was their most impressive back and varied his play cleverly and defended well. Scott did some clever line kicking and frequently relieved the pressure with sound defence. The crowd roared when he missed an easy penalty in the first three minutes; but three minutes later Auckland were 3 up: Deas had scored wide out. Scott missed.

Otago drew level when Haig kicked a penalty goal amid great enthusiasm. At this stage the

Auckland forwards were playing dashing football, with their backs continually threatening; then Deas scored under the post for Scott to add the extra points.

Auckland again swarmed to the attack magnificently, and after 25 minutes' play the ball came out to Ewart, who dropped a neat goal. Auckland maintained the pressure, and, at half-time it looked an odds-in victory for the northerners.

No one knows what was said to Otago by their coach V. G. Cavanagh at half-time, but his team had a new look when the ball was set rolling again. They stepped up the attack from the kick off. Elvidge cut the defence to ribbons with a dash down centre, to send Tanner over under the posts. Haig converted.

The Otago forwards now showed form, testing the Auckland defence with powerful thrusting sallies. Haig kicked another penalty goal. Then Elvidge flashed through to score wide out. The score stood at 14-12 with the sands running out. Then Elvidge flashed through to score wide out; and Kearney put the issue beyond doubt with a grand "pot".

Auckland came again right on time, staging a dazzling movement, with backs and forwards joining in; but the bell went and Otago won. Otago 18, Auckland 12.

Otago then sent its representatives away on a long northern tour. The great strength of the province may be gleaned from the fact that, with a side away on tour, the province was able to field a side which defeated a strong Harlequin combination by 25-14, and with the exception of Elvidge, all the players taking part were new caps.

On tour, Manawatu were beaten by 21-3, Hawke's Bay 14-9, and Wairarapa 8-3. The tourists went down to a combined Poverty Bay-East Coast side at Gisborne, suffering defeat by 20 points to 8, a defeat which caused quite a surprise.

The composite team completely outplayed the Shield holders, and the foundation of victory was laid in the forwards, who were, with the exception of three men, all from Poverty Bay.

Back in the South Island, Otago met Canterbury at Christchurch, and again met defeat by 15-9. It happened that the reds fielded one of their best forward packs in years. They were: Couling, Chandler, Bond, Duff, Hardie, Stuart, Gordon and Hobbs.

On September 13th, the tour having been completed, Otago met a challenge from Southland, and staved them off, winning by 8-nil. The last game of the season, with North Otago, was also a Shield game. Otago "went to town", winning by 42-3, made up of 11 tries, a dropped goal, a penalty goal and a conversion.

A Great Side by any Standard

By 1948, Otago had developed into a great side—a very great side. Cavanagh, with a genius for tying up the loose ends, had produced a machine which functioned with perfect precision. It was unquestionably the champion side, playing seven matches for the Shield and winning by wide margins.

In these Shield games, the province scored 175 points, made up of 41 tries, 11 conversions, eight penalty goals and two dropped goals. Their line was crossed by twice only, and three penalty goals were kicked against them. This was an astonishing performance.

Hawke's Bay in 1926, one of the greatest Shield sides in my opinion, scored 259 points to 51 in five games. Otago's defence excelled theirs.

The present generation of Otago people are most adamant in their claim that Otago were the best ever. There can be no doubt that they were a finely balanced side, back and forward, and provided an object lesson in sound constructive Rugby.

One claim that must be substantiated is that they have the best record in defence of any team in the Shield series. Those young people, however, who brush aside the claims of the great sides of the past, lack perspective.

What about Otago in the days of the famous Kaikorai side? Or Taranaki in 1895? Or Hawkes Bay 1926? There will always be arguments over this; but let us do full justice to a very great side, and to record some of their wins.

The province lost several players since the previous season of 1947 but these losses were compensated by several useful acquisitions. R. A. Haig, the third of the famous brothers, came on the scene. W. A. Meates came down from Canterbury and showed his worth by scoring 15 tries. Then there was J. T. Fitzgerald (Otago University), later playing for Wellington.

These good forwards added to the ruggedness of the pack: H. W. Wilson of Ida Valley, N. L. Wilson of Zingari-Richmond, and W. J. McNabb of Owaka. They kicked off with a fine win over Southland.

Otago

G. J. Moore
I. Botting R. K. Elvidge W. A. Meates
L. S. Haig J. C. Kearney
L. S. Woodhouse
P. Johnstone, D. H. Hamilton, C. Willocks, R. Harvey, W. J. McNab, K. L. Skinner, A. H. Foster, R. A. Dalton.

Southland

L. F. Ward
W. I. Herbison D. Smeaton A. S. Chandler
J. J. Prendiville F. H. Stewart
J. T. McKenzie
T. A. Budd, F. A. Ward, Woods, L. Moynihan,
J. J. Boyle, J. A. McRae, D. M. Brown, A. T. Smeaton.

Otago outclassed Southland, and the road to victory was laid by the sterling work of Otago's vigorous rucking forwards, who gave their backs a feast of the ball. The Otago forwards dictated the tempo of the match, and, backed up by the brilliant play of the threequarter line, proved to be a combination which only an outstanding team could hope to defeat.

On a heavy muddy ground before 30,000 people, the Otago forwards played up to All Black standard. Harvey and Willocks dominated the line-out play and Dalton and McNab led fiery foot rushes. The Otago captain, Elvidge at centre, provided most of the thrust in the attack.

Botting and Meates ran with dash and determination to capitalise on every break-through made inside. Kearney played in an invaluable role at second "5," backing up and covering with uncanny precision.

Otago led 8-0 at half time; but in the second half the Southland defence deteriorated and Otago spent the greater part of the spell on attack, forwards and backs combining in devastating movements which pierced the defence.

The great strength of this Otago combination was demonstrated in remarkable manner in the match with Canterbury. It will be remembered that Canterbury had defeated the Otago touring team the year before by 15-9, a comfortable win. But on this occasion, playing magnificent wet-weather football, Otago overwhelmed Canterbury. The match was played on a rain-soaked ground before a big mid-week crowd of 20,000.

With the way to victory achieved by the forwards, the Otago backs handled the greasy ball with remarkable precision, and with a little luck the score might have been nearer 50.

Canterbury was outclassed back and forward, but fought it out grimly. There was an absence in the Canterbury side of the teamwork, the intensive backing up and brilliant cover defence of the holders, and occasions were rare when Canterbury looked like scoring.

Otago scored two goals from tries, two goals from penalties, and five unconverted tries. From the start, there was only one team in it, and the score tells the story of how well the Otago players adapted themselves to the conditions.

Throughout the game, a relentless tide of blue surged over the red and black, and the large crowd was treated to one of the best displays of handling and footwork ever seen on Carisbrook. The Otago forwards, by their concentrated rucking, controlled the game.

Canterbury was given a lesson in ball control. Otago carried the scrums by 32-13, and the line-outs by 40-18.

The University pack man O'Connor, was voted the best forward on the ground. Not far behind him were Harvey, Willocks and McNab. Behind the scrum, the Otago insides, Haig, Kearney and Elvidge gave a masterly display of straight running and reverse passing, which completely nonplussed the defence.

The win was all the more meritorious when one considers the personnel of the Canterbury pack, containing several players who became household names in Canterbury: Dalzell, Stuart, Chandler, Bond, Herman, Couling, Mitchell and McKenzie, a great set. The backs were Savage, Roach, McNally, Richards, Argus and Kelly. They were a leaderless legion.

The next challenge came from Wanganui. Now, this was one of the most successful seasons Wanganui had ever had. Maintaining the teamwork and combination of the previous season, they once more established a good record, losing but two of 12 engagements.

In fact, they had an unbeaten record when they faced Otago on August 21st, with impressive victories over Taranaki 20-9, Canterbury 22-8 and Southland 11-9.

It was Gudsell whose play proved of great value to the side, revealing great dash and initiative. Then there was Henderson playing with vim and determination on the wing. The foundation of the team's success was laid by the forwards, led by Beard, the cricketer, a tall forward.

But they were no match for the men from Otago. The superiority of the blues in hooking, rucking and line-out play was somewhat nullified by the spoiling tactics of the challengers; but, notwithstanding this, the holders were able to cross the Wanganui line five times.

The Wanganui backs were quick to get up on their opposite numbers, but Haig, Woodhouse and Elvidge managed to find holes in the defence. Meates outclassed Henderson and Gudsell produced his usual good form.

Beard scored for the challengers and was the first player to cross the Otago line.

Hawkes Bay were the next to try their luck, but had not much success. Nevertheless, they managed to hold Otago to a close margin.

The Bay pack was lively enough, and led by Tori Reid, met with a fair measure of success.

The selectors made an unusual decision in playing the two Wairoa forwards, Jack Brownlie and his brother James as wing-threequarters. They proved a distinct success.

The centre was A. H. Ingram and the half a well-performed player in T. L. Ingram. At fullback was B. A. Wishnowsky, a player who did not receive the recognition justly his.

Otago

G. J. Moore

I. Botting R. R. Elvidge W. A. Meates
L. Haig J. C. Kearney

R. A. Haig

D. H. Hamilton, C. Willocks, L. R. Harvey, W. J. McNab, K. L. Skinner, R. A. Dalton, N. Wilson, K. J. O'Connor.

Otago were fortunate that they were enabled to field the same pack in all their engagements. Hawkes Bay made a bold bid to capture the Shield but Otago rallied strongly in the second half.

A major factor in the closeness of the score was the bustling, spoiling tactics of the Bay forwards, who took advantage of the sluggishness of the Otago inside backs. The game was played in perfect weather before 10,000 people.

Although Otago dominated the scrums, the line-outs and rucks throughout the match, the virile Hawkes Bay forwards hustled the opposition, and prevented the ball from going out to the threequarters more than half a dozen times throughout the game. R. Dockery played a notable part in breaking up the Otago attacks, as a loose forward, while Fraser and McCormack were prominent in all-round play.

Of the Otago forwards, McNab, Harvey and Dalton were prominent most of the time, but a certain amount of lassitude was apparent in the first half. It was not until the last 10 minutes that the Otago pack gave a taste of their real ability.

Only one try was scored. Botting crossed after Kearney and Elvidge had paved the way. Laurie Haig kicked two penalties and Moore one.

For the Bay, Wishnowsky kicked two penalties, one of which was a real beauty, from the side line. Otago 12, Hawkes Bay 6—a close shave.

In the next game, against Poverty Bay, Otago fielded its usual back division, but in the forwards there were three changes, Harvey, Wilson and Foster being absent. Otago, in an amazing display of aquatic Rugby, defeated Poverty Bay by 40-nil, quite a phenomenal performance.

The ground was almost a swamp and tries were scored to an accompaniment of resounding splashes. The backs handled the ball almost faultlessly and gave an exhilarating display of bright open football. Once again it was the outstanding effort of the forwards which made victory possible.



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Outweighing the challenger's pack, the Otago forwards repeatedly pushed the opposing forwards off the ball, and the speed with which the play was opened up from the rucks caught the Poverty Bay backs out of position.

One of the features of this season was the manner in which Otago were able to place in the field the same back combination Saturday after Saturday. Here it is: Woodhouse at half, L. Haig and Kearney in the five-eighth line, and Botting Elvidge, Meates in the threequarter line.

The sixth match for the Shield was against South Canterbury, who were defeated by 36-6.

The last game was against Wellington, who went down by 11-nil.

In 1948, Wellington won 10 out of the 20 games played and drew three. They went through a lot of players that year and it was rather a strange back line which was fielded against Otago: Bevan at half, Delamore and Mullin; and King, Lyons and Fowler as three-quarters; Doyle fullback.

Otago's record for the year was: Played 9, won 8, lost 1. This latter was against North Otago, and the team did not contain many of the regulars. Otago scored 196 points with only 18 against. Great going.

SOUTH AFRICAN INTERLUDE

When the All Blacks went to South Africa in 1949, great hopes were entertained that they would revive the glories of old-time New Zealand Rugby. But it did not turn out that way.

It was a maddening and frustrating tour in which a fine team was robbed of the fruits of victory. Claude King, an astute observer who covered the tour for the New Zealand Press Association, had this to say:

"The 1949 clash between the two recognised greatest Rugby Union countries, New Zealand and South Africa, is likely to remain one of the most remarkable of all time by virtue of South Africa's grand slam in the tests. Yet I cannot recall in more than 20 years of close association with New Zealand Rugby as a Press writer, one contesting country achieving such a triumph when the teams have been so evenly matched. Four to nil at least should point to marked superiority by one side. There should have been some quality of greatness about it. This was not the case."

This view is supported by Mr. R. K. Stent, the sports editor of the Cape Times, who wrote after the third test:

"South Africa has won the rubber with three successive victories, and, for that reason may consider itself to be Rugby football champions of the world. But it was a pyrrhic triumph, for the manner in which they beat their opponents in two of the three games was more a loss than a gain in prestige."

An analysis of the scoring gives the answer to the riddle. The 1949 All Blacks played 24 games, winning 14, losing 7 and drawing 3. They scored 230 with 146 against. The 1928 side played 22 games, lost 5, and drew 1, scoring 339 points with 144 against.

In 1949, New Zealand's points were made up of 43 tries, 15 penalty goals and 6 dropped goals. Against New Zealand on the tour, South Africa

scored the unbelievably small total of eight tries (four of which were converted), 34 penalties and four dropped goals. Mark well the 34 penalty goals!

The All Black line was crossed only eight times during the tour, and 102 of the 146 points against them came from penalty goals. Four of the seven matches in which the All Blacks were beaten were lost by the result of penalty goals.

Border won by two penalty goals and a try, and Eastern Transvaal by two penalty goals. "Okie" Geffin set a new record in the first test by kicking five penalty goals, and three in the third test. In these matches, these were the only points scored by the South Africans.

In the second test, the South Africans won by two tries, a penalty goal and a dropped goal, and Rhodesia won its first match against the tourists by two tries, both of which were converted.

The Springboks scored 47 points in four tests; nine points came from tries, one of which was converted, 32 points from penalty goals and six from dropped goals.

They won the first test by five penalty goals to a goal from a try, a penalty goal and a field goal; the second by two tries, a field goal and a penalty goal to a field goal and a penalty goal; the third by a goal from a try, a penalty goal and a field goal to a goal from a try, and a try.

In the four tests, New Zealand scored 18 points, 12 of which came from tries. Geffin had an exceptional record in the tests; he kicked 10 penalties and converted one try; scoring 32 out of the 47 points of his side in the tests.

Claude King records Mr. Stent as saying: "Assuming that all attempts at penalty goal had been successful, New Zealand would have won the first test, lost the second, drawn the third and won the fourth."

He goes on to say, "Of the tour as a whole, it could be well claimed that had the goal kicking been up to known standards, the All Blacks would have lost no more than two games and drawn two. Such a record, superior to that of the 1928 side, would have left little cause for pessimism. Luck was rarely with the side. Seven of Scott's penalty kicks and two kicks from tries hit the posts and bounded back in field."

Apart from luck, the incidence of the scoring would lead logically to the inescapable conclusion that the refereeing was suspect, and suspect it was. Nearly fifty per cent of the penalties against the All Blacks were in their half, whereas only one third of the penalties awarded to the All Blacks were in their opponents' half.

There is a maxim of law "*Res ipsa loquitur*" (it speaks for itself), and I say that the places at which these penalties were taken, proves conclusively that the New Zealanders were differentiated against. On numerous occasions they penalised New Zealand for fancied breaches which had never occurred.

Scott, in particular, had several experiences. He habitually tapped the ball against his leg when it came to him, and the referee ruled this as a knock-on. Every pass that was not decidedly backward, they ruled as forward.

The All Black committee which elected the referees was: J. H. Parker, A. McDonald, F. R. Allen and R. A. Dalton. Jim Parker said, "They had one or two decisions at which they were dismayed at the time but, on the whole, they had no complaints to make."

This committee was very severely criticised for returning to Mr. Hofmeyer after experiencing his rulings; not that there was anything wrong in his refereeing or that of Mr. Burmeister, apart from the fact that they made mistakes which lost us the tests.

As to the general run of referees encountered by the All Blacks, it would appear that they endeavoured to make it as difficult as possible for the tourists, and it would be charitable to think that this was an unconscious attitude of mind. In every game the All Blacks struggled against this encumbrance.

Now let us look at the team itself. It was drawn, in the main, from Otago and Auckland. Eleven from the former and eight from Auckland. This was an initial weakness, as there was quite a deal of friction between these factions, and seeds of disruption threatened at times to blow up.

It was said that the team took things too seriously; that they trained too hard and lost the art of relaxation. They were, in fact, obsessed with the idea that they must succeed

at all costs. There was no fun or laughter, but a grim forbidding business instead of an enjoyable one. But they played well and courageously.

For anyone south of the Waitaki, it is a belief that the Otago forwards of 1948 and 1949 were among the greatest ever. To counter this assertion is to bring down a storm of criticism on one's head. My own personal view is that they would not have beaten the great Auckland packs of the first decade.

Admittedly they were wonderful ruckers, extremely competent in line-outs and scrums. They were physically very powerful, but when they worked over a team and took the starch out of them with seven forwards in the pack in South Africa, the New Zealand vanguard should have called the tune.

They produced their New Zealand form and toiled faithfully in scrums and line-outs. But they lacked something, perhaps it was fire and perhaps it was versatility. They lacked the cleverness and immobility of the 1956 Canterbury pack whose hand-to-hand passing tore great holes in the defence.

Behind the scrum it is generally conceded that the All Blacks were not well served. Neither Savage or Conrad made the grade, and this operated against the centre backs. Fred Allen played a captain's game always. Their rearguard was sound and showed superb defence, it lacked variety and brilliance and there was almost a total absence of clever opportunism.

The team knew that they had to get the ball out to the wings at any cost, and in doing so their inside backs took a great hiding. It is to their eternal credit that they scored so many tries, considering what they had to put up with.

It is part of the tactics of the Springbok touring side to use only five forwards to do the rucking and to leave three forwards to spoiling the opposing back play. These two flank forwards, and the number "8" have destroyed back play in South Africa and, in 1949, it was these three men who gave the New Zealand inside backs such a torrid time.

But the pay-off had to come. Somewhere along the line, perhaps before 1949 the Springboks had sloughed off their mantle of invincibility and paid the price of departing from their habitual style.

After the third test match in 1949, at the dinner, the following statement was made by a South African: "To my dying days I will remember this match as an example of how international football should be played. It was a beautiful game. And I admired nothing more than the grand manner in which Fred Allen and his boys accepted their defeat."

And who do you think said this? None other but Bennie Osler himself! His accusation of dirty play against the New Zealanders of 1928 has been vehemently denied by the Springboks who opposed us.

Could Have Been a Marvellous Tour

It is my opinion that this All Black team was capable of going through this tour unbeaten, provided they had brought along with them one man—V. G. Cavanagh. Had he been there I am convinced that he would have supplied that something which the tourists lacked, and would have fashioned them into a victorious scoring machine.

As to Cavanagh himself, I would say that few in our long history, not actually in the field, have influenced fifteen players as he did in the years just prior to 1949. He fed his men on victory.

How is it, you may well ask, that the players were denied his services? To answer this you must first of all look over the composition of the central authority at Wellington which was responsible for the appointment of the officials accompanying the team.

Over 20 years ago, the constitution of the New Zealand Rugby Union was altered so that the control of the game was vested in a management committee, consisting of an Executive of eight members, and a Council of six members, three from the north and three from the south. The Executive had, of course, to be Wellington residents.

It was, you will perceive, a purely geographical matter which put these men in the position of control. Over the years many had been of quite mediocre stamp, and would not have been considered for high office in most provincial unions. It is at a very low level at present. No

group of responsible New Zealanders would have allowed the insensate embargo on the Maoris for the South African tour.

This statement, without any foundation, was mischievous in the extreme and published on the eve of the test match might have ruffled the temper of the players. Happily everyone realised that this was a wild, irresponsible attack made by Osler who, apparently, did not think he would be reported.

It will readily be seen that here was a perfect set-up for lobbying and it was quite easy for a few men to put their heads together to ensure that someone on this management committee should get preferment. Thus, with monotonous regularity New Zealand has been represented overseas by men not of the stature to do adequate justice to the position. A man going overseas in an official position with the All Blacks is actually an ambassador for his country.

So here was a team travelling in a country where touring teams have more strenuous travelling and difficult climatic conditions than anywhere else. It was no wonder they got down to it; for most difficult of all was the highly-developed nationalistic spirit which confronted them everywhere they went in the Union, and which manifested itself nowhere as strongly as in the actions of the referees, who acted as if they were impelled to make things as difficult as possible for the unfortunate tourists. The feeling got so bad that there arose in the ranks of the players a Back-to-New Zealand movement. Happily, better counsels prevailed.

A tour which should have added to the lustre of New Zealand, developed into an arduous, unpleasant chore.

OTAGO'S GREAT PERFORMANCE IN 1949

WITH eleven men away in South Africa, Otago did marvellously to hold the Shield, thus providing further evidence of the strength of the southern province.

The selectors had to build up a new team, but ran into trouble at the start, for they lost L. S. Haig and C. R. Moore through injuries. Once again the strength of the team lay in the pack of solid rucking forwards, for the back play was not over-strong.

The defenders had a close call in the first match, against Buller, but thereafter there was a margin of safety. The Buller match resulted in a draw, 6 points all, and this proved a good lesson for the blues.

Buller

F. J. Neighbours
A. Cummings A. S. Neighbours T. M. Hansby
A. M. Kerr R. L. Bennett
G. Smallholme
J. G. Stuart, R. Dickson, W. M. Cawniffe, M. J. Ryan, W. J. Mumm, John Nicholson, J. B. Hughes, D. S. Neighbours.

Otago

G. Moore
R. H. Bell C. J. McDonald D. R. Wightman
J. F. Fitzgerald R. F. Waldron
L. S. Woodhouse
C. M. Garden, J. F. Knight, H. W. Wilson, A. E. Hellyer, J. C. Pilling, W. A. Lunn, E. J. Muir, K. J. O'Connor,

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This Buller team, you will notice was a most neighbourly one. They went near to creating Rugby history for, had they been successful, they would have been the first team from the Seddon Shield Districts to win the coveted trophy.

The game was played in fine weather and on a heavy ground. The honours of a hard-fought game were with the Buller forwards, whose fiery dash and vigour roused the crowd of 15,000 to a high pitch of enthusiasm.

Magnificently led by Mumm, the Buller forwards, five pounds a man lighter than their opponents and smaller in stature, dominated both the loose and set scrums. Otago had considerably the better of the line-out play, but after winning the ball they lost it to the virile Buller men in the ensuing rucks.

The Otago forwards on the day lacked drive, but a new country player in Garden showed out, and O'Connor, Lunn and Hellyer toiled manfully. The Otago backs did not have a happy day.

The next Shield fixture was that against Manawatu, which took place in bright sunshine and on a ground recovering from rain. The home forwards gave a greatly improved display and had the backs been able to capitalise on even a small percentage of the openings, the score would have been much greater.

The Manawatu forwards played bravely, but were outmatched in almost every department of the game; whereas against Buller, Otago's hold on the Shield was precarious, Manawatu were beaten in all departments. Once again, Lunn, O'Connor and Hellyer were the best of the forwards, and C. J. McDonald at centre was in great form. Otago 22, Manawatu 3.

OLD RIVALS MEET IN CLOSE GAME

On August 13th, a crowd estimated at 34,000, including thousands from Southland, saw Otago defeat Southland by 6-3.

The game was played in drizzling rain and, although the ground was in excellent order at the start, the ball soon became greasy and difficult to handle. Now this Southland pack was quoted by the Australians as one of the best all-round packs in New Zealand, and this game provided one of the finest exhibitions of forward play between the two provinces.

The game had a grandstand finish when Woodhouse, the Otago half, succeeded with a snap dropkick at goal after successive Otago attacks had been held up by the challengers. The forwards were well matched, neither set being able to subdue the other; but the Otago backs showed more speed, penetration and resource than the challengers, although deadly tackling nullified many of their best efforts.

Lunn's display for Otago was the highlight of the match. He dominated the line-outs and showed pace and mobility in the open. The Southland forwards were formidable and were led in many fiery forays by Budd, the 1946 All Black. The maroons confounded those who based their assessment on the challenger's form against Manawatu.

Although slower to get across in support of their backs than the Otago pack, the Southland forwards, by close rucking and foot rushes, often had the defenders worried. Sutton and McCaw were perhaps the best. The Southland backs tackled magnificently, Smeaton and Bennett doing best.

Southland

T. R. Webster
W. R. Inder D. Smeaton J. J. Prendeville
J. C. Adam N. J. Bennett
J. T. McKenzie
A. J. Crooks, A. L. Sutton, L. S. Connolly, C. E. Robinson, T. A. Budd, D. M. Brown, W. A. McCaw, J. R. Stuck.

Otago

R. W. Orr
R. H. Bell C. J. McDonald G. J. Moore
W. J. Perrian J. B. Graham
L. S. Woodhouse
C. M. Garden, H. W. Wilson, A. E. Hellyer, J. C. Pilling, W. A. Lunn, K. J. O'Connor, C. J. Todd, W. J. McNab.

Waikato were the next challengers and they took the field against Otago in the fourth Shield fixture. Waikato, however, had a poor record in 1949, winning only two games in seven.

Waikato were granted a special challenge, and though a great deal of hope was placed in the possibility of a Shield victory, the team failed dismally on the day. There was an absence of drive in the forwards and a lack of combination in the backs.

Otago prevailed by 27-5, G. Moore (2), Perrian, Waldron and Lunn scoring tries, Perrian and Bell penalty goals and Perrian (2) and Bell conversions.

Otago then went on tour, defeating North Auckland 17-8, Auckland 9-6 and Canterbury 16-12. They drew with Wellington 9 all, but went down to Wanganui by 5-3. Otago played an up-and-coming young five-eighth in T. W.

Lynch, who was to make such a name for himself in the immediate years.

On the return home, Otago were defeated by Southland at Invercargill by 13-6, which showed how powerful the maroons really were.

A week later, Otago faced Taranaki for the Shield. The men from the cow province had enjoyed a most successful season, defeating Wellington, Auckland and Wanganui. They were acclaimed as the strongest union in the North Island and it was said at the time that Taranaki had made a grave tactical mistake in playing Southland before the Shield match (they were defeated 9-8).

The Otago coach knew what to do, and gave instructions for the ball to be kept away from the Taranaki back line. Making a gallant last-minute bid, Taranaki very nearly succeeded though. Otago held a six points lead, until the last 10 minutes and in the general run of the play this appeared to be sufficient to ensure retention of the Shield.

A brilliant Taranaki back movement, however, in which Cockerill took a part, changed the whole complexion of the game. After taking the ball from his second "five," Cockerill drew

the defence and handed on to Roper, the All Black, who finished off a 40-yards run with a try between the posts, to the accompaniment of the unrestrained delight of the crowd.

Although the Taranaki forwards threw the ball about with abandon, the defence held and Otago were somewhat lucky to win by 6-5.

This Taranaki combination was well served by a good pack and fast and intelligent backs:

M. Cockerill

A. F. O'Bryne R. A. Roper R. Sykes
E. Rowlands G. E. Beatty
D. J. Carlson, J. G. Kissick, C. R. Potier, J. D. Ancell, L. K. Herbert, T. R. Bush, L. W. Hohaia, R. G. Waite.

Otago faced its last challenge when Auckland took the field on September 18th. Although Auckland had several competent backs in its rearguard in Sorenson, J. K. McLean, Tanner and Dobson, they were not sufficiently strong forward to get the ball from the strong Otago pack and went down by 16-5.

It was a sterling performance on Otago's part to retain the Shield with so many of its best players away in South Africa.

FIVE PROVINCES HOLD THE SHIELD IN 1950

This was an incredible year. The Shield travelled up and down the country like a cork on the water.

Otago defeated Southland early in the piece and Canterbury, who were no great shakes in 1949, surprised everyone by lifting the Shield. It is true that in the match against Australia in 1949 the reds put out a fine pack and no better exhibition of forward play could be desired than that seen in the Australian match.

The solid rucking, the wheeling of the scrums, the grand loose play and the devastating dribbling rushes, in which the whole pack combined admirably, proved an object lesson to everyone.

Canterbury's win was attributable to the magnificent play of its forwards. Time after time the red forwards swept upfield in foot rushes which had Otago defending desperately. The Otago forwards, who are noted for their solid rucking, were soundly beaten in this phase of play.

In the line-outs Otago held a slight supremacy, though the challengers had also a slight advantage in possession in the scrums. The score could easily have been greater.

The Canterbury forwards were more mobile than the Otago pack, and the latter's backs were closely pressed by the Canterbury side row men. In this, Hardie excelled.

The Otago half, A. R. Haig, had a gruelling

day. Several times, Canterbury attacking strongly, were held up on the try line. Dalzell was outstanding on the day, though Duff, Couling and Young and Bond caught the eye all the time.

Behind the scrum Vincent distinguished himself. His game was suited to the conditions and he exploited the up-and-under kick with fine judgment. The merit of Canterbury's win may be judged from a perusal of the Otago pack. It included Skinner, Lunn, Hellyer, Garden and the two Wilsons.

A new force had arisen in New Zealand Rugby. In some parts, Wellington particularly, Canterbury's quality had been rather underestimated. This team of 1950 was the basis of a great match-winning combination whose chief attribute was a highly developed team spirit which enabled them to come over the last stages of the game in invincible fashion. They did not, however, show this propensity until 1953. In the meantime they were to undergo a temporary eclipse.

Canterbury

K. C. Stuart
R. M. Smith T. W. Lynch B. Simpson
J. Houghton P. V. Kearney
P. B. Vincent
R. C. Stuart, C. Hardie, G. N. Dalzell, R. H. Duff, D. Herman, J. G. Bond, D. Young, A. Couling.

Canterbury won by 8 points to nil. Not much, but enough.

When the victorious Canterbury touring party arrived back in Christchurch on a Sunday at the conclusion of the tour, a crowd of several thousands greeted them at the railway station. There was a remarkable demonstration of enthusiasm, included being a slogan of "Doug. Herman for Mayor". Doug., of course, was captain.

But their enthusiasm was short lived, for sixteen days later the Shield was lost to Wairarapa in a game in which Canterbury showed nothing of the fire and dash which carried them to victory against Otago. They were as dead as a door nail.

I don't think that anyone gave the men from Wairarapa chance, nor did the challengers themselves feel over sanguine.

The only score was a splendid field goal by the Wairarapa fullback, an unknown Maori lad, who achieved fame overnight. This was in the first spell, but truth to tell, Wairarapa richly deserved their victory because its forwards displayed more life and speed than the Canterbury pack, and showed a greater knowledge and ability to break rapidly from the set scrums and ruck and continuously hammer the Canterbury inside backs.

The reason for Canterbury's defeat was not hard to find. In its major matches, Canterbury defeated Wellington in a sea of mud, and the Otago game was played on a ground on which rain fell continuously. Forwards and backs who mastered these conditions with fire and dash appeared lifeless and slow on the fast turf of Lancaster Park, especially in the second half.

The Wairarapa team, however, was better balanced. Their backs played safely, rather than brilliantly, and gave sound support to a pack who all through showed a speed and initiative in attack which was sadly lacking in their opponents.

The hero of the match was the fullback Mahupuka, a well built lad weighing 13 stone. His positional play was first class and his kicking long and accurate. He appeared to judge the flight of the ball accurately. When, from half-way, he sent the ball spinning between the up-rights he sent the Shield spinning up and down the country.

Wairarapa

A. A. Mahupuka

R. C. Patrick A. B. Desmond J. A. Geary

M. B. Couch G. C. Parker

S. P. Walsh

A. W. Blake, D. H. Matheson, E. B. McPhee,

T. F. Ryan, K. Matthew, L. Sceascia, N. Humphreys, W. Waaka.

South Canterbury comes into the picture

If Wairarapa had visions of holding the

Shield for some time, they were doomed to disappointment, for they faced a challenge from South Canterbury on the 16th September. The caption in the morning paper read: "Remarkable recovery by winning team." Here is the story of the match:

Magnificent efforts by two 1949 All Blacks in L. A. Grant and M. P. Goddard helped South Canterbury to recover from what seemed a losing position to beat Wairarapa by 17-14—and to take the Shield back to the South Island.

It was the first occasion that South Canterbury had won the trophy and the first time that the Shield had four holders in one season. Worse was to come. A fifth holder was fretting for action in the great Mooloo territory. This game was remarkable for its fluctuations.

South Canterbury began against the wind in a manner which suggested it would win easily, and even though Wairarapa finished 3 points up at half-time, it looked as if the home team had failed to make the most of a fairly strong wind.

However, when Wairarapa converted a try, halfway through the second spell, it seemed as if the Shield would stay with the holders. Then South Canterbury, with Captain Lachie Grant, and at centre, Morrie Goddard, playing magnificent football, the winning try was scored two or three minutes before full time.

When South Canterbury were 5 points behind, Grant began to exert himself in the line-outs and gave one of the best all-round displays seen from any forward that season. He amazed everyone by kicking a penalty goal from half-way, and just missed another, after taking the kick from his own 10 yards mark.

Then M. P. Goddard paved the way for a try with a brilliant weaving run, Grant being on hand to finish by scoring under the posts. J. W. Goddard goaled.

In the last 10 minutes South renewed its efforts. M. P. Goddard had the ball knocked out of his hands as he dived over at the corner. Then Grant snapped it up when a defender failed to find touch and beat the defence to score at the corner, giving South Canterbury a sensational victory.

The game demonstrated the tremendous value of a few players of class. When Grant got going and M. P. Goddard got some reasonable chances, South Canterbury from an average side became a dangerous one. But this is true of certain types of games where one set of forwards has the ascendancy and the backs on the other side are called upon to defend so vigorously that they have little time for offensive work.

I consider Grant a very great forward indeed, particularly in the line-outs, and at the time of writing all New Zealand is acclaiming Peter Jones for his wonderful play in the fourth test. Of the running type of forward, I suppose Jones is one

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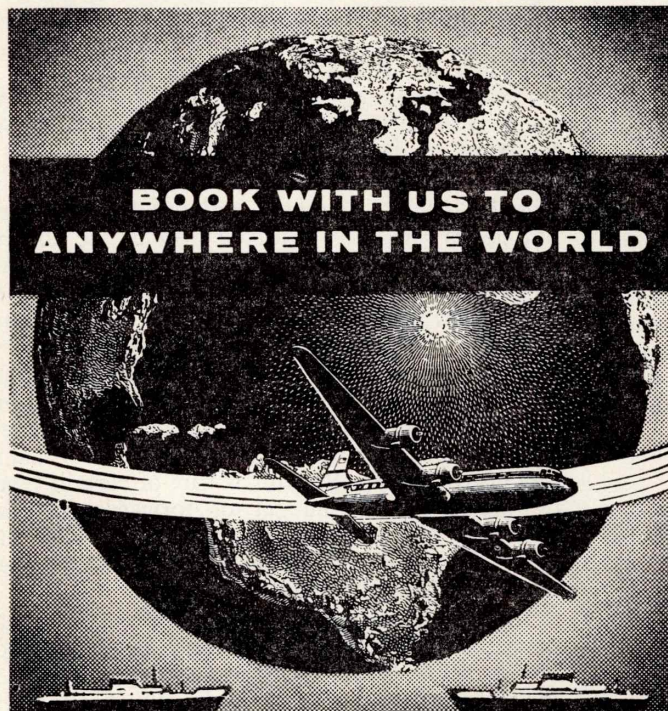
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of the greatest the Rugby game has produced. He had the capacity to brush aside the most determined tackling.

Throughout New Zealand's long history there have been many of the stamp of Peter Jones, and we are apt to forget the great ones of the past. For instance, the 1903 New Zealand team in Australia. Where were there ever such forwards to approach Cooke, Manning, McMinn, Long, Nicholson and Gallaher, all in the one pack and all Grants?

The Wairarapa team was vastly improved compared with their earlier performances in the season, and the Southern tour culminating in the winning of the Shield had worked wonders.

South Canterbury

J. W. Goddard
R. T. Stoddart M. P. Goddard T. L. Taylor
A. R. Moore T. E. Doherty
R. L. Green
L. A. Grant, M. C. Eathorne, J. Bryce, R. M. Comer, W. F. Garty, G. Cormack, N. J. Hobbs, E. P. Hartley-Smith

South Canterbury holds shield for 14 days

The Shield certainly moved around in 1950. North Auckland, who had been clamouring loudly for a tilt at the Shield, came down from the far North on September 30th, 1950, and took the field against the holders at Timaru.

North Auckland

E. F. Dunn
N. P. Cherrington J. B. Smith B. W. Beazley
P. Smith G. M. Perrin
M. N. Paewai
E. A. Martin, J. B. Irvine, F. J. Baume, J. W. Isaacs, D. F. McRae, I. L. Fraser, P. F. Jones, F. W. McHugh.

The Shield had changed hands for the fourth time in two months. North Auckland prevailed over South Canterbury by 20 to 9. Once again, goal kicking decided the issue, each side scoring two tries. Fourteen of North Auckland's points came from penalty goals and a conversion. The challengers deserved their win, and the difference of 11 points did not really represent the disparity between the teams.

Except in the first five minutes of the game when the South Canterbury forwards overran them, the North Auckland backs always looked like a scoring machine, and had no real difficulty in bottling up the occasional passing rushes.

How is it, you may well ask, that the players initiated by the South Canterbury backs.

It was a long time since Rugby supporters had been entertained with such combination as shown by the North Auckland backs. The apparent ease and rhythm with which each move was executed made football look easy.

Among the forwards there was not the set purpose or businesslike tactics of a rugged Otago pack. There was comparatively little hard scrumming and the line kicking was done to gain stretches of ground and not merely to slow up

the game. North Auckland gave a delightful exhibition of doing well the ordinary things.

Behind the forwards the ex-Otago University player, Paewai, showed that he was the best half in New Zealand. He used the dive pass as demonstrated by Danie Craven. Johnny Smith was the wizard of the team and, without apparent effort, he did everything like a master. High punt or rolling ball came into his hands as if drawn there, and when he kicked there was very good reason.

The North Auckland forwards subordinated their play to make a game for their backs. With the exception of the three front rankers, all the forwards were tall. The tallest was the young eighteen-year-old Peter Jones, a breakaway, who was, six years later, to show dazzling form.

North Auckland was rather lucky to retain the Shield in its first defence against Bay of Plenty on the 4th August, 1951. They won by 16 points to 12, but spent the last 20 minutes on the defensive.

The Bay forwards played with fire and determination, and hustled the North Auckland men into making many mistakes. Each side scored three tries and a penalty goal, but the Northerners won with two conversions. The holders led at half-time by 11-3, after leading 8-nil in the first few minutes.

The game was watched by thirteen thousand people and was played on a dry ground in ideal weather. It was largely a battle between the Bay forwards and the North Auckland backs. It was fast and open throughout, with much rugged play in the forwards and North Auckland clinging to its narrow lead throughout the final quarter.

For Bay of Plenty, McLaughlen, Gage, Potae and Koopu played rousing games. The fullback, Welch, the five-eights Gardiner, the half-back

Ellis, and the centre Parkinson were the best of the backs. North Auckland 16, Bay of Plenty 12.

The next challengers were Thames Valley, who were beaten by 19-6 in a thrilling struggle. At half-time the score was 3-all, and the North led by only 9 to 6 with ten minutes to go. Two converted tries in the closing stages enabled the holders to retain the trophy comfortably. Ten thousand spectators witnessed the match, which was productive of much fiery forward play and spectacular back movements.

The skill of the North Auckland backs swung the balance in the defenders' favour. J. B. Smith turned the tide when he moved into first "5" to act as the pivot of the North Auckland attack. He played an outstanding game and scored a try, a dropped goal, and two conversions, representing 10 out of his side's 19 points. R. M. Jacomb, the Thames player, was in magnificent form for the Valley. North Auckland 19, Thames Valley 6.

MOOLOO ENTERS THE FIELD

The year 1951 marked the emergence of Waikato as a powerful factor in New Zealand Rugby. Much of its strength came from its splendid reservoir of country players. Waikato comprises some eight sub-unions.

The province's performance in 1951 was outstanding; it played 13 games, winning 11, drawing with Fiji and going down to an Auckland fifteen by 12-20. The average of 15.3 points for and 7.1 against gives some idea of the power of this great side.

Mention must be made here of another powerful province in Canterbury, whose record was also full of merit. The Canterbury first fifteen suffered defeat only once, when West Coast beat them early in the season by 18-14. Their average was 19.9 points for, and 9.1 against.

There is one unusual thing to record about this team, for, when D. A. Young was capped for New Zealand in 1956, a full fifteen men of 1951 all achieved New Zealand representation.

When Canterbury went on tour through the north in 1951 and put up over thirty points against both Taranaki and Wanganui, the local scribes said that they had never seen such football for a generation. It fairly sparked and dazzled with Vincent, Lynch, Hotop and Elsom reviving all the glories of old time New Zealand football. There was no doubt about it, Hotop and Lynch played like masters.

In a thrilling match at Whangarei, North Auckland went down to Waikato by 6 points to 3. This was on August 18th. The seventeen-year-old D. B. Clarke kicked two penalty goals for the winners and J. B. Smith kicked one for the defenders.

Once again we must remark how blind the selectors must have been throughout the years to overlook the claims of the Waikato fullback. He seemed to be always winning games by his boot.

Early in this game rain and a hail storm struck the ground, and the turf soon became a

quagmire. These conditions had a strong bearing on the game.

Catley's hooking and the intelligent play of the Waikato inside backs, Cowley, Reid and Brunskill, were the match winning factors. The sound play of Clarke and his powerful line kicking were also of great value to his side. Catley hooked the ball 22 out of 29 decisive scrums.

Although North Auckland won in the line-outs 17-11, its backs had few chances to get going. The magnificent cover defence of the Waikato forwards, and the mud, subdued the brilliant North Auckland back line.

The greater mobility of the Waikato forwards in the heavy going was another vital match-winning factor. McLaren, McKenzie and Grant were the best Waikato forwards, while Baume of Dargaville was the best of the defenders, whose best backs were Paewai at half, J. B. Smith at centre, and Slater at second. The honours might easily have gone the other way.

Waikato

D. B. Clarke

J. A. Roberts I. N. Kurtovitch J. R. O'Hearn
B. A. Cowley T. Te Maari

A. R. Reid

H. C. McLaren, W. A. Anderson, G. P. Nola,
J. T. Graham, I. J. Clarke, E. H. Catley, D.
K. McKenzie, D. E. Grant.

The next province to challenge was Auckland, whose team comprised some very well known names in Erceg, Tanner and Weightman, the five-eighths Vernon and Gumbley, and the half was Lidgard of Northcote. The forwards were the much-travelled McGuigan, Skeen, Nevin, Walls, White, Castles, Loft and McEvoy. This match took place at Hamilton on August 15th.

Waikato proved itself to be a worthy holder of the Ranfurly Shield and prevailed by 14-6. It was a convincing win by two tries, a conversion and two penalty goals to a try and one penalty goal.

Waikato supporters were always confident that their greatest hurdle would be to win the Shield from North Auckland. There were many,

however, who were concerned that the team might not last the distance against Auckland, because the players had been hurriedly called upon to defend the Shield after being home only a few days from a 400-mile trip, and a particularly hard game against North Auckland.

The Waikato team rose to the occasion magnificently, and over the last quarter of an hour was in complete control of the game. The holders were without the services of D. B. Clarke, D. E. Grant was on the injured list, and J. Bulloch was carried off after the first quarter of an hour.

Auckland was beaten in the forwards. Its backs were only allowed limited attacking opportunities, and they found it extremely difficult to pierce Waikato's excellent cover defence. Auckland had every chance, as the ground was surprisingly firm and the ball dry for three parts

of the game.

For the first time in many years, the Waikato back line was better than Auckland's. Their inside backs received plenty of the ball from Catley, who was in grand form.

The hero of the match was the replacement five-eighth, G. R. Brunskill, who, besides showing great speed and penetration, kicked two grand goals after several easy ones had been missed by other players. Reid played a fine game, and Kurtovitch and Crowley at second "five" played fine games.

Of a lively pack, perhaps Nola, McLaren and Robertson were the pick. Scott was a tower of strength to Auckland, whose forwards, ably led by Skeen, were impressive in the line-outs only, but were no match for Waikato in rucking. It was very hard at times.

IMPRESSIVE WIN OVER BAY OF PLENTY

The holders surprised many supporters by the manner in which they overwhelmed the Bay of Plenty by 32-10. Ten thousand people saw the game in ideal conditions. The challengers were never completely subdued, and the score does not give a true indication of their merits.

The Bay forwards were fierce and tireless, but they were a little too eager and were frequently penalised for offside play. Their backs often looked formidable and defended well for most of the game, but at vital moments the Waikato backs were able to exploit the slightest mistake.

On the other hand, it was only the excellent cover defence of the Waikato team which stopped the Bay from scoring more points. Brunskill, the hero of the Auckland match, moved from centre to fullback when Adam was injured, and again he played an outstanding game, scoring a brilliant try and kicking several penalties and conversions. All the Waikato backs played well, showing speed, penetration and combination.

The defenders, playing with the wind, jumped into an early lead and led 18-5 at half-time. These points came from a try by Nola and brilliant tries by Brunskill, Cowley and Reid. Three of these Brunskill converted.

The Bay points came from a try by Isaac, and converted by McGuigan.

In the second spell, Roberts kicked a penalty goal for Waikato from 30 yards out, and then Koopu scored for the challengers, McGuigan again converting. A penalty to Brunskill was followed by a try by O'Hearn from a back movement commenced on Waikato's line, Brunskill adding the extra points. From a similar move a little later, O'Hearn centre-kicked for the wing, Roberts, to race up and outstrip the opposition.

The fourth Shield challenge came from Taranaki on September 15th at Hamilton. The game was played before 14,00 people on a dry, dusty ground and in brilliant sunshine.

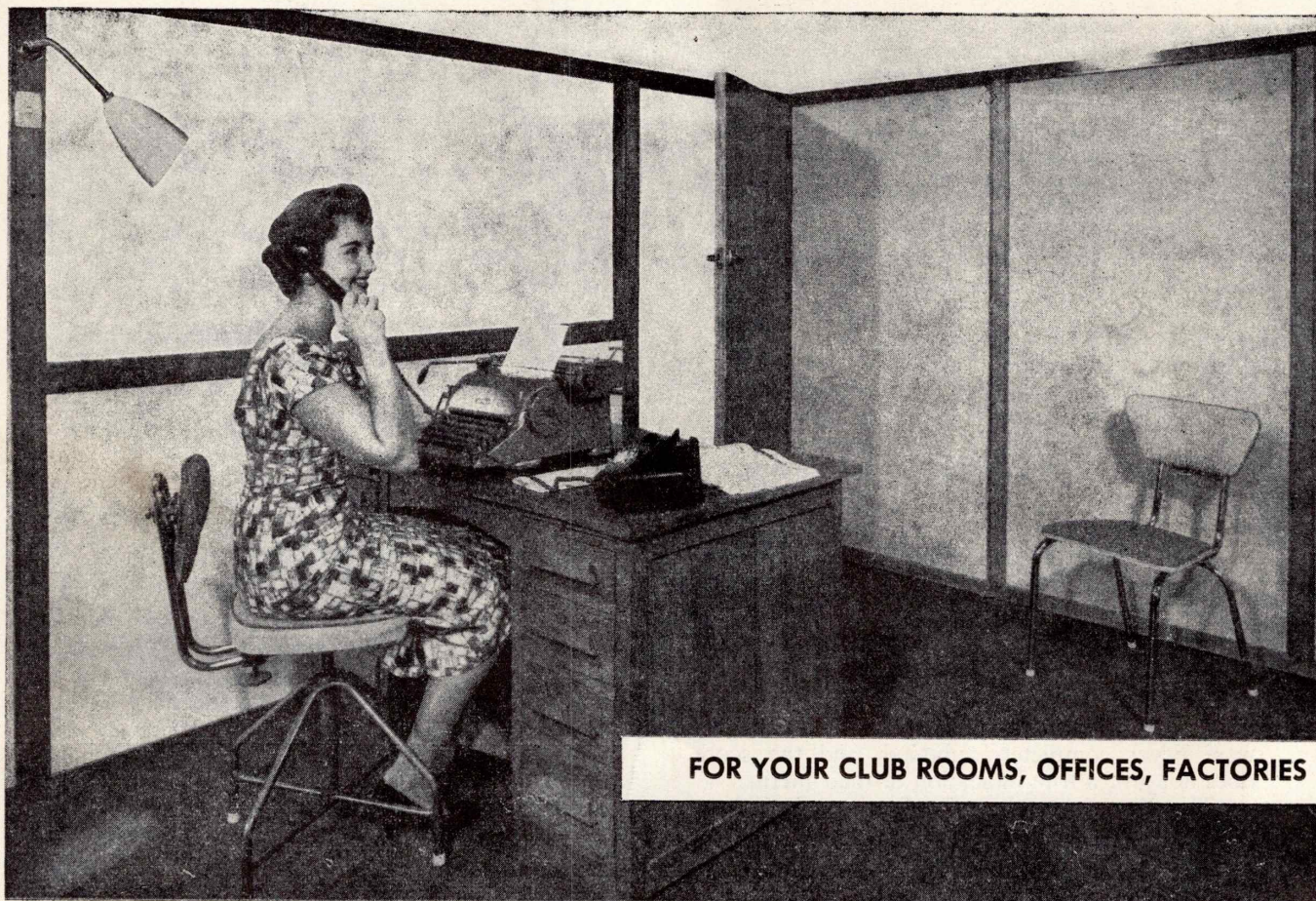
Except for a period in the spell when Waikato scored 13 points in 12 minutes, and a few isolated back movements by both teams, the game was almost entirely a forward struggle until the closing stages when Taranaki opened up the play. Waiakto won chiefly because of its better team work and better polish, but the win was not as comfortable as the margin would indicate.

The Taranaki forwards gave the holders the hardest game they had yet played. Not only did Taranaki dominate the line-outs, but Waikato was not so clearly superior in the scrums as usual.

It was a particularly hard-fought game, but under the conditions the spectators wanted bright, open back play and saw too little of it. Taranaki had been making most of the play and was 3 points up as the result of a grand "drop" by Bowden, the five-eighth, when Waikato made a remarkable effort.

Reid sent his backs away with a swift, long pass, and all the backs handled in turn for Roberts to beat his man on the half-way line. When blocked by Cockerill, Roberts in-passed to Kurtovitch, to McLaren, to Brunskill, who scored. Clarke goaled. A few minutes later, the lively Nola broke clear in mid-field, dummied beautifully, tossed the ball to Clarke, to McLaren, who scored. Clarke again converted.

Soon after, Bullick cut through brilliantly near half-way. He beat Cockerill, the Taranaki fullback, and ran nearly 40 yards to score. This time D. B. Clarke missed. Waikato were all over the challengers. At this stage McLaren scored for Clarke to convert.



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RANFURLY SHIELD GOES BACK TO WAIKATO.

H. C. McLaren, captain of the Waikato team which defeated Auckland, sings for his team mates and supporters after the match at Eden Park. The Waikato team's singing is always led by McLaren.



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After half-time, Taranaki kept the game very tight, their forwards giving a grand display and refusing to be beaten. It was anyone's game after Bowden had kicked a penalty goal and Hall had scored for the challengers.

However, Waikato rallied, and when Nola scored the issue was beyond doubt. Just before the final whistle, Carlson scored for Taranaki. Prominent in a grand pack were Burke, Hall, Hohaia and Carlson.

Mention must be made of the performance of N. J. G. Bowden, the New Plymouth Old Boys' player, in this match. He scored a dropped goal and a penalty goal. Since then he has gone to California, where he has met with much success, winning game after game with his boot. His bag for the year 1951 in New Zealand was three potted goals, 11 penalty goals, and eight conversions—all in representative games—a total of 58 points.

D. B. Clarke did almost as well with 48 points, made up of nine conversions and 10 penalties.

On September 29th the last challenge match for 1951 was played at Hamilton. Wanganui was defeated by 14 to nil. This was a determined challenge, for the game was much more closely contested than the score indicated, and it was not until the final eight minutes that Waikato could exploit its superiority.

There was no score in the first half. The first points came 17 minutes after the beginning of the second spell, when Brunskill kicked a field goal for Waikato. The score remained 3-nil until there was only eight minutes left, when Waikato scored three good tries.

Features of the play were the excellent cover

defence of both teams, and the tremendous line kicks of the two fullbacks. It was a very bright game with both teams throwing the ball about, and with play moving from one end of the field to the other.

Waikato's other points came from tries by Cowley, McLaren and Robertson, one being converted by D. B. Clarke.

An All Black team made a most successful tour of Australia in 1951, winning all its matches, and scoring 366 points to 83; a record. But this is not as good as it appears on the surface, for in four minor games, 218 points were scored. There were comparatively few changes on the New Zealand test side. The team which took the field in the first and second tests won by New Zealand by 8 nil and 17-11.

New Zealand

M. S. Cockerell

P. Erceg

J. M. Tanner

R. A. Jarden

T. W. Lynch

L. S. Haig

L. B. Steele

Peter Johnstone, C. E. Robinson, R. A. White, R. H. Duff, W. A. McCaw, K. L. Skinner, N. L. Wilson, H. W. Wilson.

In the third test, won by New Zealand by 16-6, Bell took Jarden's place on the wing, and McCaw acted as number "8." It seems strange that out of this most successful team only six were selected to go Home in 1953. They were Jarden, Fitzpatrick, Haig, Tanner, McCaw and R. A. White. There were quite a few who would have strengthened the 1953 tourists considerably. Lynch, perhaps the star of the side, was soon to go to Lancashire to play in the northern Union.

WAIKATO'S LAURELS WILTED A LITTLE IN 1952

As far as interprovincial football was concerned, the year 1952 was one of the most remarkable in history. It was characterized by great inconsistency. The reversals of form were hard to understand.

The best performed provinces were Waikato, Auckland, Wellington, Canterbury, Otago and Southland. Waikato defeated Auckland by 12-3 on June 2nd at Hamilton, then on August 9th they lost the Shield to the Queen City by 9-nil. Two weeks later, on August 23rd, at Auckland, they regained the trophy by 6-3.

On July 16th, Auckland found it hard to contain Wellington. The latter, on a wave of form, won by 31-11. At Wellington, two months later, Auckland showed a reversal of form and beat the men from the Empire City by 23-14.

In the last match of the season, Canterbury held Auckland to a draw: 11 points all.

Otago lost to Australia 9-12, and Hawkes Bay 18-22, besides drawing with Canterbury 6-all. Southland was twice beaten by Otago 5-14 and 8-15, defeated Canterbury 25-14, and was in turn defeated by Wellington 16-9.

The most significant matches were those between Wellington and Canterbury. The former prevailed by 25-11 and should have won by more. The Canterbury forwards were all at sea, and in the heavy going couldn't cope with the speedy Wellington set.

The visitors' backs, Steele, Riley and Fitzgerald played with beautiful combination and gave plenty of the ball to the irrepressible Jarden, whose bag for the day was 19 points.

This match was played on 5th July. Nearly two months later on August 30th, the men from the plains threw off their lethargy to defeat Wellington by 22-15 in a sparkling game. Jarden kicked five penalty goals. This game, which was of some significance, will be referred to later.

Waikato, as we have seen, commenced the season with a good victory over Auckland by 12 to 3. They then embarked on a short tour. Their first game was with Wanganui, who defeated them by 8-6, mainly owing to the excellence of a gifted pair of five-eighths in Kipa and O'Connell, the latter being particularly brilliant. This was on July 5th.

They next met Wellington who fielded substantially the same side which had played so magnificently against Canterbury a few days before. Waikato went very well in the backs and forwards and won by 9-3.

Back home, they faced a challenge from Thames Valley and ran out winners by 17-3. This was on July 19th, and a week later they withstood a challenge by Wairarapa and prevailed by 14-nil.

Their next engagement was a non-Shield match with Bay of Plenty in which they drew 14-all. Then a surprise for, on August 9th, Auckland came down like a wolf from the fold and carried off the Shield.

It was a game worthy of a Shield challenge with many bright movements. Both sides defended well and the fact only one try was scored told the story.

The Auckland team played very bright football and deserved their victory; they made intelligent use of the strong wind when they had it in their favour in the first half. All the points were scored in this spell.

The Auckland forwards, led by White, Johnstone and Andrew, more than matched Waikato's pack in vigour during most of the match. The challenger's backs had greater speed and smoother combination than the Waikato rearguard.

Playing with the strong wind after winning the toss, Auckland was 3 points up within four minutes, when Kelly kicked a penalty goal. Ten minutes later, Reeves scored a try which was converted. With three minutes to go before the end of the first spell, Auckland's lead of six points looked slender enough. Waikato then gave away another penalty and Kelly kicked a fine goal.

Although they did most of the attacking in the second spell, the Waikato men did not use the wind as well as did Auckland, and the Waikato backs showed little penetration. Waikato fielded its strongest team, but could not master Auckland either in forwards or backs. So the men from the Queen City had the Shield again.

They had last had it in 1935.

Auckland

J. W. Kelly

P. Erceg

R. Brady

D. W. Reeves

J. M. Tanner

R. M. Harris

K. Davis

W. Andrew, H. L. White, A. F. McEvoy, P.

J. Bevin, B. G. McKenzie, M. Menzies, J. R.

Skeen, R. D. Johnstone.

Auckland held the Shield exactly a fortnight. On August 23rd Waikato took it back.

Before a record crowd of 41,000 at Eden Park, Waikato led 3-nil at half-time, and finished up with two unconverted tries to a penalty goal. Conditions for play were good with a fair wind, which Waikato had in its favour in the first half.

The match resolved itself into a battle of tactics in which Waikato was superior. The Auckland backs were hustled into errors, and the team as a whole fell well below the standard it displayed against Australia the previous Saturday. (In this game Australia scored a sensational win. They were down 16-8 at half-time but fought back gamely to win 17-16.)

In this return game the Waikato forwards showed the form they had shown earlier in the season and secured the victory. It was a complete reversal of the form shown by both teams in the match at Hamilton two weeks before, when Auckland won the Shield.

In the return match it was the Waikato side which played with renewed vigour, whereas Auckland lost its dash as a combination.

From the outset the Waikato pack, in its enthusiasm, dash and cohesion, took command, and the Auckland forwards were never able to overcome the visitors' efforts. Deserving special mention were Manners, McLaren and I. J. Clarke and Nola, who gave a devastating display. This is a man who should have gone far.

Waikato played three more Shield games before the end of the season. It cannot be said that they were strong challengers, for Waikato were severely criticised at the annual meeting of delegates of the New Zealand Rugby Union. It was thought that several unions who were entitled to a match were passed over. Canterbury, in particular, were very wrath and alleged that Waikato had considered the interests of the local Trotting Club in not providing a Rugby fixture on one particular date.

It was ever thus. In 1956, for instance, there was a cry that Canterbury should have played Waikato, and it would be hard to rebut the justice of this claim. There is no doubt that an amendment to the Shield rules is overdue. Perhaps the situation might be met by the New Zealand Union nominating two provinces, who, on the previous year's form, would be entitled to a match.

There is no doubt that in 1960 Auckland has shown a decided disinclination to face Canterbury early in the season.

A further obvious course would be for the New Zealand Union to declare, before the end of August, the province most entitled to a challenge in the current year, and the defenders would then be called upon to provide a date. This difficulty could be met by allocating a date, preferably the third Saturday in September, for this particular fixture.

There is no particular merit in holding the Shield unless the best teams play for it.

On August 30th, Waikato repulsed a challenge from King Country by 18-8. The challengers had been beaten eight times out of nine in 1952.

Manawatu were the next bidders for the Shield, but they went down by 12-3. A week later Waikato went to New Plymouth and accounted for Taranaki by 21-8.

West Coast loomed up on the 20th September and they, too, went down 20-6.

Mention has previously been made of the return match between Wellington and Canterbury, played on the 30th August at Athletic Park Wellington; it will be remembered that, on the previous July at Christchurch, Wellington had a convincing win over the Plainsmen by 25-11; but, in the second game, the tables were completely turned.

This was a significant match, for it was the first time that the combination which was to win such a sequence of games first displayed its form. The score was 22-15 in favour of the visitors.

The score was not a true indication of Canterbury's superiority, as Wellington did not cross the visitor's line. All Wellington's points came from penalty kicks by Jarden. Canterbury's score resulted from five tries and a penalty goal.

Canterbury

K. C. Stuart

M. J. Dixon E. G. Elsom R. Smith
D. D. Wilson J. Hotop

P. B. Vincent

R. C. Stuart, S. F. Hill, G. N. Dalzell, R. H. Duff, K. F. Meates, E. Hern, D. Young, P. Eastgate.

A year later, Canterbury took the field against Wellington for the Shield. Practically the same team wore the red and black jersey. McPherson went in instead of Hotop and G. Small replaced Meates. This was what a paper stated:

"Fiery, hard rucking, quick-breaking Canterbury forwards, combined with the deadly tackling and the hard running of the backs were its chief factors in Canterbury's win. It was a magnificent

win and the score, which could have been even larger, in no way represented the difference in the two teams."

The score was 24-3 in favour of the challengers. Many were never convinced of the merit of Canterbury's win, but did not realize that Canterbury had produced precisely the same form a year before when the Wellington line was crossed five times, whereas Wellington had failed to breach Canterbury's defence.

The Ranfurly Shield was, in 1953, played for on eleven occasions. Waikato won three, Wellington six, and Canterbury two.

Waikato opened the season against Thames Valley with a non-Shield match on May 30th and had a comfortable victory by 29-8.

On June 2nd, a special Coronation Day match was played against Auckland at Auckland. They fielded a fifteen in which there were many new faces. It was an effective combination and prevailed by 17-6.

Then Waikato played two games away from home, winning both. Manawatu were defeated by 17-3 and Wanganui by 18-6.

The first challenge of the new season came from the Bay of Plenty, played on the 11th July.

Both teams were at the peak of their form in spite of the disorganisation of transport caused by the Waikato floods. The ground was heavy, with deep patches of mud, otherwise the conditions were ideal.

The holders gave their supporters many anxious moments in the first spell, when the Bay forwards played with vigour and fire. However, in the second spell, Waikato did not look at all likely to be beaten.

Nola did not take the field. The re-arranged forwards were not a success in the first spell and did not give Reid much protection. Because of this many of Reid's passes went wild and he and Brunskill did not combine happily.

Tighter play in the second spell gave the Waikato backs better opportunities. The heavy ground caused both Brunskill and Cowley to slip when side-stepping after each had made a clean break and spoiled two certain tries. Carrington at centre for Waikato was on form. Reid played an outstanding game, and E. Wightman on the wing was solid on defence.

Waikato

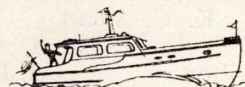
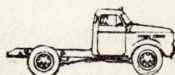
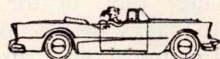
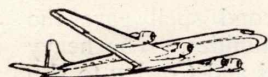
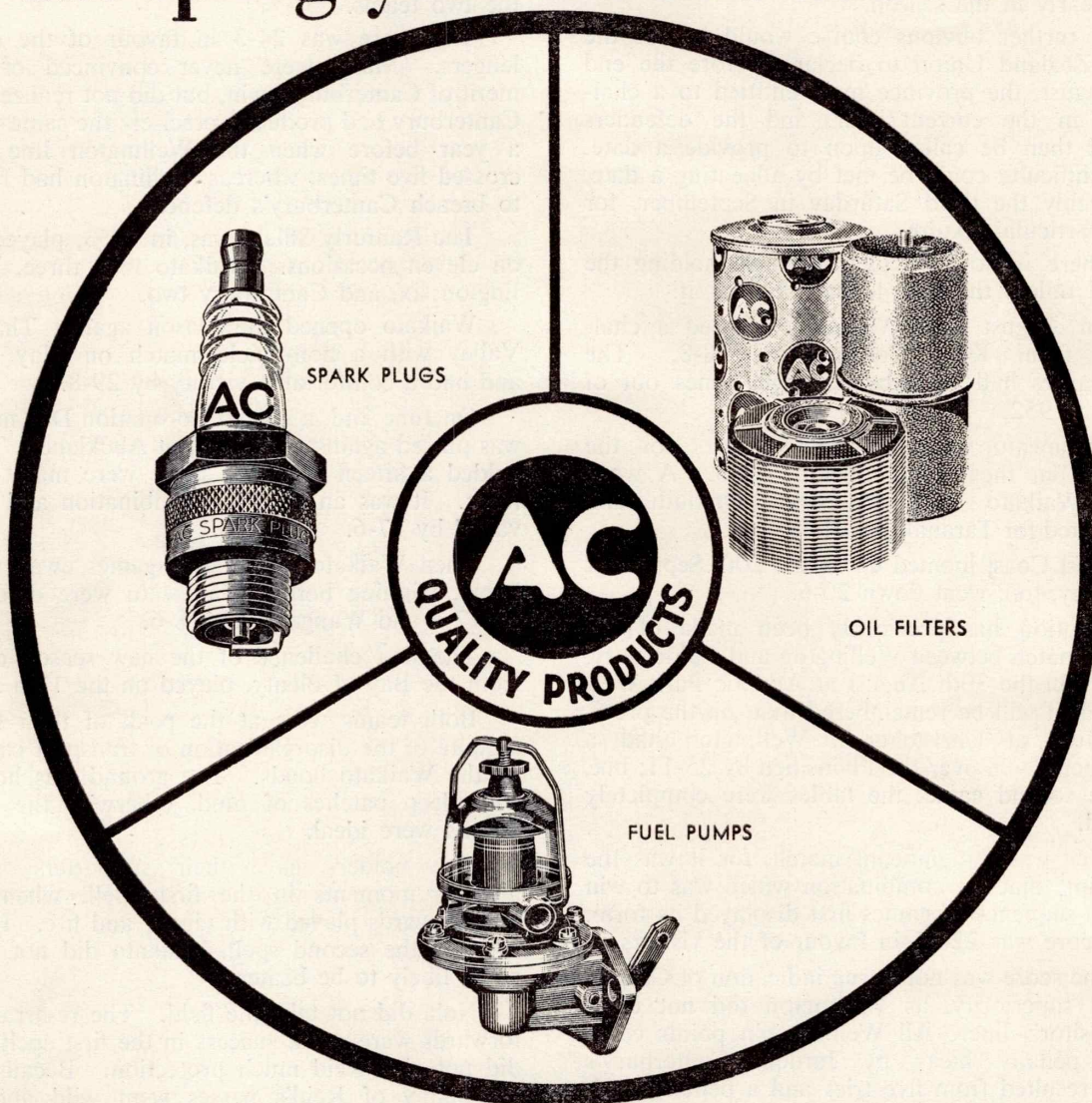
R. A. Adam

J. R. O'Hearn E. J. Carrington D. R. Weightman
B. A. Cowley G. R. Brunskill

Ponty Reid

H. C. McLaren, D. R. McKenzie, D. E. Grant, W. H. Anderson, J. S. Graham, E. H. Catley, I. J. Clarke, C. C. Vowles.

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WAIKATO AT ITS BEST

Waikato gave a most impressive display before 20,000 people on July 18th, when they withstood a special challenge from North Auckland by 24-5. In a sparkling exhibition of Rugby in which there was a good measure of bright, open play by both sides, Waikato enhanced its reputation.

The North Auckland side was fast, played with determination and adopted many unorthodox and spectacular methods, but it was outplayed by a team which countered many of its moves.

A feature of the game was the fine all-round play of the North Auckland forwards who were never mastered. They were not able to give their backs the same amount of ball as the Waikato backs enjoyed, but they were adept at swooping on the leather in the loose, and getting their backs under way. North Auckland had ample opportunities of exploiting any weaknesses in the Waikato backline, which played with speed and initiative.

For the challengers, J. B. Smith, a trifle thinner than of yore, was a constant source of danger.

The next challenge came from Taranaki. It was a drawn game, the sixth drawn game in the long history of the Shield. Each side scored a penalty goal in the first spell.

Twenty thousand people saw a vastly different

game from the bright open display of the week before. After heavy rain the ground was very muddy in parts, but the weather was good, with a strong south-westerly wind.

Taranaki played with the wind in the first spell, and with the half, Cameron, using the line and wind at every opportunity, his team attacked practically throughout the spell. Taranaki scored first with a penalty goal; but within three minutes Adam equalised the score with a 40-yard effort against the wind.

In the second half, Waikato with the wind, was constantly in Taranaki territory, but did not score. In this spell Adam just missed three penalties, outside the posts in every case, otherwise Waikato would have had a safe margin.

The Taranaki forwards matched the Waikato pack in the scrums and line-outs and outplayed them in the loose. The game was a classic demonstration of how number "8" forwards can spoil back play. Nola upset the Taranaki backs, and Croad, Nola's Taranaki counterpart, completely ruined all Waikato's attempts to open up the play.

Both sides had excellent cover defence systems and rarely did it appear likely that either side would gain a try. This was the last Waikato victory.

WELLINGTON WINS 200th SHIELD FIXTURE

BEFORE they took the field against Waikato on the 1st August, Wellington played eight games, winning all but two. Taranaki defeated them 9-6, and Canterbury 9-8. They were a very good, well-balanced team.

Waikato and Wellington were very evenly matched and although the latter undoubtedly deserved its win for its more polished display, and for making more use of its opportunities, Waikato might easily have retained the Shield if it had a reliable goal kicker. Each side scored a try, but the challengers kicked two penalty goals, whereas Waikato kicked only one.

The ground was in good order and the weather was fine. Full credit must be given to the Wellington forwards, who played easily their best game for some seasons. On several occasions in the second spell it appeared as if they would wilt; but they recovered and gave their brilliant backs every opportunity.

Wellington had far more of the ball than was expected. Catley was out-hooked for the

first time, in the first spell by Judd by 8-7, but in the second spell Hemi won the scrums by 13-6 when he replaced Catley, who was obviously suffering from injuries received in the Taranaki game.

This was a great debut for Hemi in Shield Rugby, a promise which he fulfilled so adequately in 1956. The Wellington backs played excellently and Jarden, who scored all the points for his side, was outstanding. Wellington's sole try started from good play by O'Callaghan; he burst down the side line and passed infield to Lloyd, who dashed up the inside of the field, and backs and forwards fanned out for Jarden to take the final pass and score.

Waikato's defence was very sound and it was a tribute to it that once again only one try could be scored against them. In the forwards, W. Clarke, B. J. Lloyd and G. Mexted played best for the winners. Ian Clarke, Nola and D. McKenzie were outstanding for Waikato.

Reid again played a sharp, snappy game, but

the other backs had no answer to Wellington's fire, wonderful covering and tackling. They were never given room in which to work. Wellington 9, Waikato 6.

Wellington

T. B. O'Callaghan

B. W. Battell J. T. Fitzgerald R. A. Jarden
B. B. Fitzpatrick T. J. Riley

V. D. Bevan

W. H. Clarke, D. N. McIntosh, B. J. Lloyd,
D. G. Harker, G. G. Mexted, S. W. Judd, I.
M. Vodanovich, C. P. Williams.

Wellington held the Shield for exactly fifty days, and defended it successfully on six occasions. It is doubtful if any province, holding the Shield for such a short tenure, ever gave such pleasure to its supporters. They played beautiful football, with much down-the-centre attack, and had the backs provide attractive Rugby. This they did in full measure.

The first challenge came from Southland on Wednesday 12th August and 20,000 crowded into Athletic Park. Wellington was in the grip of Shield "fever" and it spread through all walks of life. There was no afternoon "call" on the Wellington Stock Exchange, and in the Supreme Court, because of "a certain important event which is happening this afternoon," Mr. Justice Hay adjourned a case, and Counsel made the submission for the jury, raising the matter with the Clerk of the Court.

The foreman of the jury assured His Honour that the jury were most unanimous about the matter of going to the match. His Honour replied that he had no personal preference and had plenty of work to go on with. "I always like to meet the wishes of the jury if I can," he said.

When called upon to face Southland in the first challenge, the holders failed, in a measure, to reproduce the forwards' efforts of the Waikato match, and was given a lesson in scrummaging by a lighter pack to withstand Southland's challenge by 22-6.

O'Callaghan, the Wellington fullback, who had been in magnificent form all the season, scored 16 points—a try, two conversions and three penalties. Up to half-time it was anybody's game; Southland with the wind, always an important factor at Athletic Park, went into an early lead, 6-nil, a penalty by Edie and a fine try by Gibson.

O'Callaghan kicked a splendid penalty goal from 50 yards out and, right at half-time, a brilliant Wellington movement with backs and forwards co-operating, brought a converted try.

Early in the second spell, O'Callaghan came up fast alongside Jarden in a short passing movement to score. Battell added another try after smart passing by the Wellington backs, O'Callaghan converting. Before the bell went for full

time, O'Callaghan kicked two penalty goals.

Once the ball came loose, Wellington played thrilling Rugby. The try just before half time was a typical example. In his own territory, Riley set his backs going and the ball was handled by some eight players before Williams kicked ahead. W. H. Clark and Mexted were handy. The latter scored.

O'Callaghan was brilliant. Jarden's opportunities were limited, and with more luck with the bounce of the ball he would have scored more tries.

Of the Wellington backs, Fitzgerald played his best game of the season, and Bevan, Fitzpatrick and Riley were always dependable. Twenty-eight thousand saw the game and the gate was £2704.

The sky blue of the East Coast was next seen at the Park. This was on the 17th August, and but for some reckless kicking by the enthusiastic but inexperienced forwards from Ruatoria, Wellington's second match was little more than a gay frolic.

The inexperienced East Coast side did remarkably well in the forwards considering, but it had no counter for the speed of the Wellington backs. Wellington won by 42-nil and gave the impression of being able to score whenever they exerted themselves.

Jarden scored six tries, a Ranfurly Shield record, and converted two, to give him 22 points. Battell, on the other wing, scored three tries. O'Callaghan converted four and Clark one. The crowd was estimated at 20,000 and the gate £2100. One week's possession of the Shield meant nearly £4800 to the Wellington Union.

Comment: "Heavy rain during the previous week left pools of water over parts of the ground, but otherwise conditions were good. Though the crowd enjoyed many of the sparkling movements, with the ball being thrown about in brilliant style, it was astonishing to see the home pack once again outplayed, this time by opponents with little experience."

East Coast won the scrums 22-18, and possession in the line-outs was even. The result of this was that Wellington had to look for most of their scoring opportunities, and in this, they were helped by the fact that the East Coast backs were too slow and were often caught with the ball.

Of Wellington's ten tries, five came from scrums in which the Coast had hooked the ball, but their backs were hustled into errors, with Wellington quickly setting up attacks which easily outflanked the defence. Three tries followed line-outs. One came from an excellent piece of rucking after an up-and-under kick and the other came from a scrum.

A week later, Otago, always a determined challenger, entered the lists. Spectators numbered 32,000, and Wellington prevailed by 9-3. Two tries and a penalty against a try scored by E. Shiels for Otago.

Wellington forwards and backs rose to the occasion magnificently. Largely because of missed opportunities, it was anybody's game until the concluding stages. Early in the match, Wellington attacked vigorously, and Bevan crossed the line, but the referee ruled against a try.

Battell chased a cross-kick over the line, dived and missed the ball and Williams was pushed out in the corner flag. Jarden missed a penalty kick from 30 yards out, and later, Otago missed two comparatively easy kicks from penalties.

Wellington had much more of the play territorially than Otago, flung the ball about much more freely, and looked the more impressive side. Otago gave the best performance of their tour. Forwards like Skinner, McNab, Wilson and Darracott, and 18 years old Mark Irwin recaptured the spirit of Otago's great packs.

Behind the scrum, was L. S. Haig who excelled in kicking for the gaps. Otago provided as tight a cover defence as had been seen in years.

The score was 3-all, a try each, at half time. About 15 minutes from full time, Wellington scored a try, and right on full time O'Callaghan kicked an easy penalty goal. The best of the holder's forwards was C. P. Williams, and the excellent binding of Judd enabled Wellington to carry the scrums by 22-25.

Behind this vastly improved pack, Bevan played with zest and judgment, and Fitzpatrick gave one of his best exhibitions. For Wellington, Jarden and Bevan scored tries and O'Callaghan kicked a penalty goal. This was a game which Otago might well have won.

Wellington's next engagement was with Taranaki on August 29th, in which they prevailed by 26-3; six tries, four converted. Taranaki a field goal.

The teams were a trifle jaded, as eleven of the Wellington side and six of the challengers had taken part in the regional All Black trial held at Wanganui on the previous Thursday. It was not surprising that the pace slackened in the second spell though the first half was very exciting, with Wellington dominating the play by winning the scrums 11-5 and the line-outs 16-6.

The Wellington backs were in fine form and came down the field in rush after rush, handling the ball beautifully. The half-time score was 18-0 in favour of Wellington. The gate takings were £3359, and the crowd numbering 37,000.

The gate money in the Shield games to date amounted to £11,221.

The regional trial referred to was remarkable for an almost complete change of form in the forwards. As a majority of the pack were from Wellington and Taranaki, it is interesting to look over their composition.

In the first spell the probables with Hohaia and Burke of Taranaki as locks; W. H. Clark and B. T. Clark of Wellington and Wanganui respectively, and on the side Doherty of Taranaki hooking, Orr and James of Taranaki as props and Robinson of Horowhenua as last man, had all the better of the play in line-outs and scrums.

But in the second spell the other pack took charge and gave its backs a much better opportunity to show their paces.

The probables pack had Bagley of Manawatu and Williams of Wellington as locks; Scown of Taranaki and McIntosh of Wellington in the sides. Lloyd (Wellington) and Carroll (Wanganui) as props, Doolan Manawatu was the hooker, and Mexted of Wellington the No. 8. All will agree that there were some fine forwards in this game. Possibles won by 31-19.

The next side to appear at Athletic Park in quest of the Shield was Auckland, but the superior pace of the Wellington men dashed the hopes of the men from the Queen City.

In a spectacular game, in which Auckland excelled in attack, the holders scored 23 points; four tries and converted a penalty to a try and a penalty goal. Jarden's contribution was 14 points, made up of a try, four conversions and a penalty goal. His tally for the season was 119 points in representative games and 78 in club games, making a total of 197. This must be getting close to the record.

Wellington's performance was all the more notable because Auckland won the scrums 16-6 and the line-outs 30 to 27; but on the day there was no comparison in the team work.

Auckland scored a very good try in the second half in which Tanner and Menzies showed pace which was lacking in the side's other movements. Seldom, however, could Auckland match the brilliant pace and combination of the Wellington backs and forwards.

Wellington's first try was scored when Fitzgerald made a weaving run and passed to W. H. Clark, on to Loader who scored.

Two other tries came from outs and the quick service of Harker to his backs. In one of these movements, O'Callaghan took a reverse pass and lined up with Williams, Clark and Vodanovich. The latter was downed on the line and the ball came loose for McIntosh to fall on it.

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In quest of the Ranfurly Shield. Members of the North Auckland Rugby team and party in Auckland, en route for Hamilton. Third from right in front is the captain, J. B. Smith.



Wellington's prolific try-getter, R. A. Jarden, scoring a try in the Ranfurly Shield match against Otago. The Otago player is E. S. Diack. Wellington retained the Shield by winning 9 points to 3. The previous week Jarden scored six tries against East Coast, a Ranfurly Shield record.

The finest try came from a break through on his own half, by Battell, whose pace was too great, though the Auckland forward, H. L. White, made a desperate effort to get him. The attendance was 32,000 and the gate £2821, making a total of £14,041. The Wellington team which defended the Shield on six occasions:

T. O'Callaghan
R. A. Jarden J. T. Fitzgerald B. W. Battell
 B. Fitzpatrick T. J. Riley
 V. D. Bevan
W. H. Clark, D. N. McIntosh, B. T. Clark, D.

G. Harker, G. G. Mexted, S. W. Judd, C. P. Williams, L. M. Vodanovich.

It was probably the strength of this side that it fielded practically the same fifteen throughout the series.

In the Auckland and Canterbury games C. J. Loader took the place of Fitzpatrick, and in the East Coast game, McIntosh stood down. I doubt if any other defending side had a comparable record in the small number of replacements.

CANTERBURY STARTS A LONG WINNING SEQUENCE

In 1953, Canterbury surprised everyone by doing well on its northern tour, defeating Hawkes Bay 16-9, Auckland 15-12, but going down to Waikato 9-11.

The team was coached by Jack Rankin, a man whose talents as a Rugby tactician have not been adequately recognised. He was of the opinion that challengers for the Shield had been forced by the defenders to play Wellington's game. The obvious counter to this was to cut off their supply of the ball and thus call the tune. He evolved a very good set of tactics which worked out far better than he had dared hope for.

These blind-side tactics were designed to keep possession of the ball, and at the same time to put the opposing players, particularly the forwards, through the mill. When the scrum was near touch and the ball hooked, the half back Vincent threw the ball to his first five or his wing, who immediately put in a short grubber to land some 15 feet away.

The flankers, Hill and Small would dash in and up-end the would-be possessor of the leather and an informal scrum would ensue. Up would come the main body of the forwards, who immediately commenced rucking vigorously.

When the ball came out on the open side, the instructions were that it should not go past the second "five" who would use the usual grubber, to enable his forwards to go through the usual rucking process. Rankin used to have his forwards rucking over a bale of hay; this they did ad infinitum and became surprisingly efficient.

After their opponents had been given this softening-up treatment, came the time to open up and go to town. The backs and forwards then combined in telling, whirlwind attacks. By this time the defence had wilted. It was surprising how successful they were in using these tactics.

And so to the game. A northerly wind,

which in the early stages of play was fairly fresh, had little effect on the conditions of the game which were ideal. The ground was extremely hard and at times the players were obscured by clouds of dust arising from scrums or kicks. But this did not deter the fiery, hard-rucking, quick breaking Canterbury forwards, who, combined with deadly tackling and hard running of the backs, were the chief factor in Canterbury's win.

Canterbury, employing the same tactics as it did when it won the Shield against Otago in 1950, did not give Wellington a chance. The forwards drove on mercilessly and, apart from the first few minutes, when Jarden hoisted the flags for a penalty goal, had the Wellington pack beaten.

When the ball did get out to the Wellington backs, deadly low tackling by the Canterbury inside backs brought movements to a halt almost as soon as they began. The Canterbury forwards, dashing to the resulting rucks, pushed Wellington off the ball to give the red backs every opportunity to score.

The Bevan-Riley combination was not very happy and the opposing forwards capitalised on this to the full extent, and Bevan received very close attention. Wellington made every endeavour, as usual, to get the ball out to the speedy wings Jarden and Battell, but this stratagem failed. That was how Canterbury eminently succeeded where all the previous challengers failed.

Near the Wellington line, both wings were employed to come into the backs as five-eighths, and if the wing was tackled—as it was devised that he should be — play was immediately switched to the blind, with Vincent, Wilson, McPherson and sometimes K. C. Stuart in to make an overlap. These tactics also paid dividends.

It was a surprisingly hollow victory.

Canterbury

K. C. Stuart

M. J. Dixon E. A. G. Elsom R. M. Smith

A. W. McPherson D. D. Wilson

P. B. Vincent

J. J. Small, R. C. Stuart, R. H. Duff, E. Hern,
D. Young, P. Eastgate, S. F. Hill, G. N. Dalzell.

With the exception of Hern and Small, all of these players donned the All Black jersey. In view of subsequent happenings it is interesting to record contemporary estimates of some of the Canterbury men:

"At the base of the scrum Vincent combined perfectly with Wilson, and it was this combination which contributed so much to Canterbury's success. Vincent was outstanding; his passes were crisp and well directed and his judicious use of the line with kicks which, if they did not go out, served as handy up-and-unders, and gained large stretches of ground for his team.

"His solo bursts from the base of the scrum and rucks were, however, the most notable feature of his play. Five or six times during the game he sprinted up the middle of the field to set his backs in motion.

"Another player, who, from his showing in the All Black trials and this game, seems unlucky to have missed selection is McPherson. His tackling of the All Black, Loader, on Saturday, must put him high up on the list of the best defensive players in the country. McPherson usually tackled him when he was wide open to a tackle—at the very moment the ball landed in his hands."

Perhaps Ross Smith was, after Vincent and McPherson, the unluckiest man in the country. "Two All Black wings were included in the teams, but neither showed up half as well as the Canterbury left wing, Smith. Not since he first played for Canterbury in 1949 has he played such a grand game.

"Except for one lapse, which might have brought a try, he could not be faulted. He tackled with determination, followed up anything loose with speed which many did not think he possessed, and scored one of the best, if not the best, try of the match, when he battled his way through four or five defenders with only a few inches of ground in which to work."

Canterbury faced a challenge from Buller on the 16th September, at Lancaster Park. There was one change in the defenders' team. Teague replaced Hill. Canterbury won by 19-3, but this score in no way flattered them.

Twenty-two thousand people saw the match, which was played in brilliant sunshine. After heavy rain on the previous day, the ground was in excellent condition and conducive to the fast open football both teams endeavoured to play.

Tactics again played a major part in Canter-

bury's win, in using the speedy three-quarter line to good advantage. For most of the game, Vincent and Wilson were the most closely watched men on the field. Every time the ball began to emerge from a scrum or a ruck, a Buller forward followed it out. On many occasions Vincent had great difficulty in getting his pass away, and in the others he was caught. Such was their enthusiasm that on a number of occasions they reached Vincent before the ball came to him.

The game was neither as spectacular nor as good as that in which Canterbury won the Shield. There were handling faults and missed tackles on both sides. The forward play, however, especially by the Canterbury pack, was up to the standard of the previous week. The defenders failed in goal kicking.

The Canterbury forwards, playing a game similar to that which contributed largely to Wellington's defeat, gave another superb display. In the loose, Buller held its own, but in the tight it was Canterbury all the way.

One of the best forwards on the field was Mumm of Buller. Quick to the rucks, he was always looking for the ball to come loose, thus giving him the opportunity of harrying the Canterbury inside backs. In the loose he was a tower of strength.

In the tight, Cockfield, Powley and Shaw were the mainstay of a fiery pack which did not yield easily.

Twenty-two thousand people paid £1820 at the gates. The Shield is a great money spinner. Wellington in five matches had grossed £17,591, but Canterbury at the end of 1956 had taken £62,000. Football is a big business these days. Perhaps it is far too big for a sport grounded on the ideal of amateurism. We must keep the game from getting into the hands of the cost accountants.

In 1953 a team was chosen to go to the United Kingdom. The tragedy was that it was selected a week before the Wellington-Canterbury game which showed the true worth of quite a few players who, some how or other, had failed to come to the notice of the selectors.

The selectors showed an incapacity which was, to say the least, disturbing. It appeared that they were convinced that Wellington had most of the worthwhile footballers in the backs, at any rate.

Comment: "The truth of the matter is this: Canterbury fielded one of the finest packs of powerful forwards any New Zealand union has ever produced, and supported it with fast, enterprising backs who circumvented a tenacious defence four times, and later saw their captain score.

"The fact of the matter was that Canterbury forward supremacy was so complete that no more than an adequate set of backs was required to complete the job. Since Canterbury were able to field in Dixon, Elsom and Wilson from the newly-elected All Blacks and near misses in K. C. Stuart, P. B. Vincent and A. McPherson, the odds which Wellington faced can well be appreciated."

Now I cannot understand why Stuart, Vincent and McPherson were passed over. I believe Vincent would have been a great success as leader, and would have liked to have seen Wilson of

Southland, O'Connell of Wanganui and Gugich and Walker of the West Coast in the team as well. These men would have made all the difference, and would have transformed a mediocre team into a match-winning combination.

I have not overlooked the capacity of Bob Stuart in weighing up the potential of the 1953 tourists. He is a grand person and he wielded a big influence with his team. His mana was great in the land, but in 1953 I believe his best days were past. I would always have a back, near the scrum, as captain.

CANTERBURY DECLINES WELLINGTON CHALLENGE

The Ranfurly Shield is no doubt a money spinner, but in its time has also spun a web of trouble.

At the beginning of the 1954 season there arose a great hiatus when Canterbury intimated that the usual July game with Wellington would not be for the Shield. The above caption was from the Evening Post which expressed itself: "After Canterbury had so handsomely won the Shield off Wellington last season, their spokesman gave no hint, other than their team would be ready and waiting for Wellington in July, as too early for Shield matches—the Shield is for the Champion Union which should have the right to prepare; that other unions deserve consideration before Wellington which had a full programme of Shield matches last season; that the Canterbury public are right behind their union and that club matches should be completed before Shield challenges commence."

When Mr. Dalley was asked whether he himself had said soon after the Canterbury-Wellington Shield match the previous year that Wellington would have the first game for the Shield when they came to Christchurch for the first match the following year, he said "no arrangements like that had been made, such arrangements were for the union to make, not for an individual. It was the union's decision which counted."

It will be readily appreciated that the atmosphere was not propitious for amicable negotiation when the time came to consider fixtures at the annual meeting of delegates of the New Zealand Rugby Union. The Canterbury delegates did not get as far as discussing the matter.

Comment: "The three Canterbury delegates to the annual meeting of the New Zealand Union, Messrs. Dalley, R. W. Blazey and H. C. Blazey, had approached Mr. C. Gibbons, a member of the Wellington Union's fixtures committee, on

the possibility of matches. Mr. Gibbons had reported Canterbury's approach to Mr. Millard, and though the Canterbury delegates had waited for a reply from Mr. Millard none was forthcoming, said Mr. Dalley."

That is how it rested. No games were played between Wellington and Canterbury in 1954, and a breach was created which it is sad to think may take a long time to mend.

There was tremendous interest in the first Shield challenge which came from Southland. Interest was at fever pitch in Christchurch. Many shops put on window displays, and the Shield itself was on display in the window of a department shop.

One window featured swedes in one corner and Canterbury lamb in the other, and between the two was a placard which read: "Southlanders bring on your swedes, we will mow them down." And on a parked car: "We don't want your Cathedral, just the Shield." This was the atmosphere when Southlanders, a notably cheerful and enthusiastic people, took Christchurch by storm.

Behind a flag which had been the rallying point of 40 previous invasions of Rugby strongholds, the supporters of Southland's representative team, hundreds of them, marched and drove through the Christchurch streets on Saturday morning.

After the main body of these vocal shock troops had disembarked at the railway station, the procession arranged by the Christchurch members of the invasion committee, set off for Victoria Square.

There were 14 floats, several bands, scores of marching girls, one trick cyclist, and an inescapable air of good humour. The Southlanders think Christchurch folk do not easily evince enthusiasm; but how does one overcome the flatness of a city like Christchurch?

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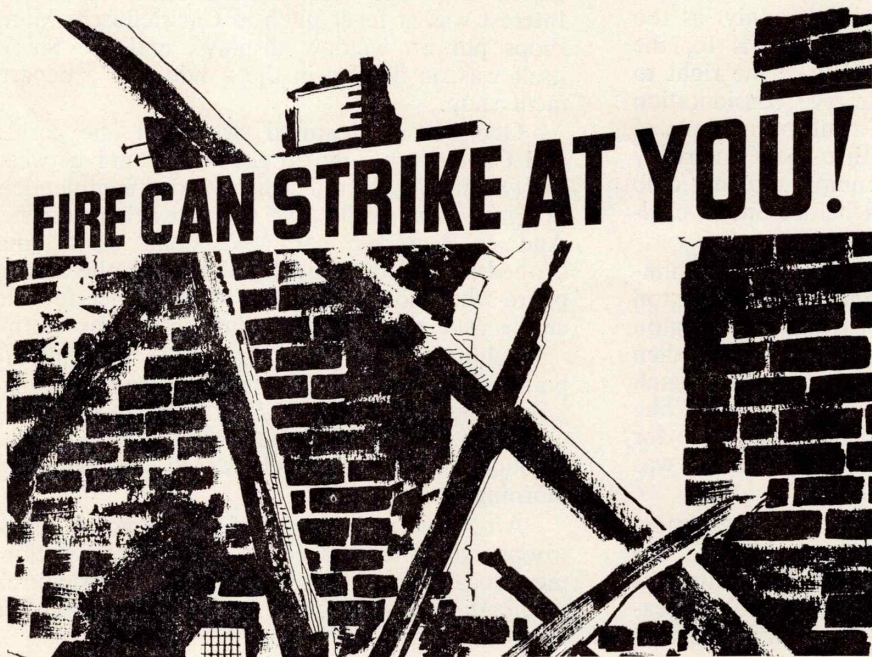
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At Victoria Square, among the spectators was Mr. Bill Graham, who organised and led the first of all Southland processions to Christchurch 21 years before. Mr. W. Jenkins, a son of the great Southland forward, Ike Jenkins, chairman of the Christchurch end of the invasion committee, Mr. Manning, the deputy-Mayor, Mr. Dalley, president of the Canterbury Union, and Mr. Jim Hamilton, the old Otago Varsity forward, president of the Southland Union. And then to the Park, where 31,000 gathered for the great clash.

Southland were favoured by many, for they had disposed of Otago and Mid-Canterbury. And had not Canterbury been beaten by the Coast, and only scrambled home against South Canterbury by 3 points?

I think that Southland had every reason to take the field with quiet confidence. The game, as it turned out, was one of the most gripping seen for years. In the first spell the Southland backs, particularly, played better than any maroon rearguard seen in years.

Southland

J. T. Millar

E. S. Diack R. A. Harrington R. W. Gilson
T. W. Edie A. L. Wilson

J. T. McKenzie

C. A. Lamb, C. A. Woods, C. E. Robinson, G. Ronald, I. M. Miller, A. McMeekan, C. O. Ballam, W. A. McCaw.

There were five changes in the team from that which had faced Wellington in 1953. Waive was in Wilson's place, and Canterbury were without Dalzell and Duff, the locks, whose places were taken by Teague and Davies. North Island critics thought that with Dalzell and Duff locking the scrum Canterbury had little to fear. Meates and Roberts replaced R. C. Stuart and Small.

I saw the game from the committee room in the No. One stand, directly behind the gateposts at the northern end, and consequently had a remarkable view of Southland's tremendous opening gambit. What a breathtaking ten minutes that was:

Kevin Stuart kicked off for Canterbury in a crashing thunder of cheers. Southland got the ball, and Edie with two long kicks put his side in an attacking position. Southland again got the ball from the line-out and switched the attack across the field. They showed up some holes in the Canterbury defence.

The ball came to A. L. Wilson from a ruck, brushing off Waive, he kept running for the line with a dodging determined burst, to touch-down about five yards from the left-hand corner.

There was great jubilation on all parts of the ground which grew to a roar when Diack converted. The Canterbury men looked bewildered.

A few minutes later there was some loose play on the embankment side and Gilson, the

accomplished Southland wing, made a quick break and raced into Stuart's tackle as he sent a pass infield to the forward McMeekan, who raced to the line for a fine try. Diack again raised the flags. Southland 10, Canterbury nil—and pandemonium.

As I sat in the stand and saw the stunned looks on the faces about me, I thought to myself it looks as though the Shield has gone. Ten points down in less than ten minutes was too great a hurdle. Les Loveridge, the Varsity winger, sitting behind me, leaned forward and said: "Do you know, I don't think these chaps will last the pace out; you'll see we'll put on about 20 points." And they nearly did. It was 18-10 at the finish.

The Southland forwards were clearly outweighed. Their average was 13st 8 lb, and Canterbury were 11lb heavier. As the game wore on the snap and vigour drained away from the challengers; in the last quarter they took a terrible hammering and could scarcely be recognised as the team which overran the defenders in the first quarter of an hour.

Full credit for the win must go to the Canterbury forwards who worked tenaciously and showed in the later stages of the game that they were nearly at the top of their form. The fast ground was all in favour of the heavier defenders, who worked most consistently, but they might not have been so impressive on a heavy ground.

On the day's play, it was evident that Canterbury could put in the field a pack to compare with any other in New Zealand. To hold the Shield, any province must be either free of injuries or possess adequate first-class reserves.

The best man on the ground was the All Black Eastgate, whose performance was remarkable. He worried the opposition like a terrier, or perhaps, as he is 14st 5lb, like a bulldog.

McCaw for Southland played brilliantly, as did the five-eighth A. L. Wilson. What a show this man would have put up on English fields if the selectors had had the nous to have recognised his merit. His strong dashing bursts cut holes in the defence.

And so Southland's invasion force boarded the train at 10.45 p.m. for the long trek homewards. For some hours there was a noticeable lack of noise; then came the dawn and, with the shock of defeat wearing off, the train came to life. Pipers began striding through carriages, and rousing Scottish airs brought the travellers to action.

The Caledonian Pipe Band of Invercargill told the city of the homecoming as it marched up Esk Street with the Southland banners fluttering in the lead. The travellers returned in good condition and with colours flying—but without the Shield. With such spirit they are sure to get it on another invasion.

The second Shield challenge came from Wairarapa on August 15th. There were several changes in the Canterbury side; Black replaced Dixon, and McPherson who was injured was replaced by McCormick. In the forwards Hern was replaced by J. D. Stewart.

After establishing a lead of 3 points, a penalty goal in the first spell, Wairarapa failed badly in the second half of the match. A lighter pack was overmatched in the second spell by the heavy Canterbury forwards, who had much to do with establishing a final margin of 16 points to 3.

Wairarapa's indifferent record over the previous two years did not suggest that Canterbury would have overmuch difficulty in resisting this second challenge. A ground that was in poor condition for this season of the year, even allowing for the rain of the previous two days, did not make for a good display.

Under these conditions a scientific exhibition of Rugby could not be expected. Passing rushes were very few and the Canterbury inside backs followed a well-defined policy of kicking in the hope that a favourable bounce would give the fast three-quarters chances to score.

The form of Canterbury on the ground suggested that the side might have been lucky to strike Southland under perfect conditions on the previous Saturday. The form of the defenders suggested that it would play its best when the going was hard and firm.

The strength of Wairarapa was in its forwards. Blake was a clever breakaway and line-out forward. Bennett and Collins, the locks, showed plenty of experience, but the backs were not impressive.

The third challenge for 1954 came from South Canterbury. It did not seriously worry the Canterbury pack who won comfortably by 24 points to 11. It was a capital game, full of incident from start to finish.

The margin of five tries to one fairly represented the difference in ability of the teams, for Canterbury forwards, with a big advantage in weight, were always on top, especially in line-outs which they won 36-24. Superiority in scrums was not so pronounced, South Canterbury taking 18 and the holders 20.

M. P. Goddard, a brilliant centre some years ago and regarded as a veteran, played in the unaccustomed position of first five-eighth with a consummate ease that seemed to cast a reflection on the ability of more than one Canterbury back. When he went on his own, Goddard had no difficulty in beating his opposite number. Had it not been for the quick-breaking forwards, he might have made a material difference in the score. Goddard, at 32, was still a general, and almost as quick on his feet as in his heyday.

After the game Pat Vincent said: "Canterbury played their best attacking game of the season; the ground suited us, the team is coming right."

MOOLOO'S LONG TREK TO CHRISTCHURCH

Waikato went into number one position in the Rugby Union "keenness" parade when their great invasion train left Frankton on Friday, 17th August, bound for Christchurch—the longest and biggest invasion in Shield history.

With a series of piercing rooster calls, and amid a chorus of whistles from numerous locomotives, the "Mooloo" express pulled out of Frankton at 5.55 a.m. It was a dark, wet morning but the scene on the station was bright and colourful. More than 500 Waikato Rugby supporters, all with the red, yellow and black streamers and emblems in the forefront, crowded the train, full of eagerness for this adventure. The engine itself was a "K" and was liberally treated with the Waikato colours.

There was a fly in the ointment though. The Mooloo express had to play second fiddle to the northbound Limited. There was plenty of fun en route. At Te Kuiti members of the Hamilton Silver Band enlivened proceedings with martial airs. At Taumarunui there was an even better spectacle, for there were a band, cheerleaders and

a trick cyclist. But "Mooloo" was 45 minutes behind schedule.

Wellington was reached at 6.20 p.m. "Mooloo" puffed into the station amid a scene of pandemonium. A large crowd, mostly Waikato supporters, gave the expedition a rousing reception as the large train steamed in.

Meanwhile, the railway staff was busy cleaning the "special." There were stacks of "dead marines."

The tourists then ate (in three sittings) at the railway station. At 7.10 p.m. the army assembled inside the station and, headed by its own band, marched up Stout Street, Lambton Quay, Grey Street and along Customhouse Quay to the wharf.

The departure was 15 minutes late, and when the Maori was off Oriental Bay the cowbells and horns could still be heard at the wharf.

The prize exhibit brought all the way from Hamilton was "galloping Gertie," a motor vehicle dating back to the Paris Exhibition of 1895. It was rescued from a Christchurch cellar and found

its way north; it is claimed to be the first motor-car owned in New Zealand, and its original owner was the noted "Nicky" Oates. It was the first power-driven vehicle in Australasia and made its debut at Lancaster Park, home of many famous "firsts."

The Thompsons, of Milner and Thompson, had an Oldsmobile which was about the same vintage.

Well, on to the match. Waikato supporters lost no time in establishing themselves at the Park, and came prepared with cowbells and other ingenious gadgets. Their highly coloured skull caps could be clearly seen all over the oval. One was a sign which read "Mooloo the decanteryer". It brought tremendous laughter and applause.

Then there were two young men who were supposed to represent a cow, but spent most of their time on the ground, to the vast amusement of the small boys. There has hardly ever been a happier atmosphere at the Park, and the Waikato invaders received a royal welcome from everybody.

Here are the teams:

Waikato

D. B. Clarke
G. J. Carrington G. R. Brunskill J. A. Roberts
B. A. Cowley J. R. Bullock
A. R. Reid
H. C. McLaren, R. Smith, D. Grant, B. Manners,
L. Connolly, D. J. McKenzie, E. H. Catley, J. T. Graham.

Canterbury

K. C. Stuart
M. J. Dixon A. E. Elsom R. M. Smith
A. W. McPherson D. D. Wilson
P. B. Vincent
S. F. Hill, L. Davies, K. F. Meates, D. Young,
J. D. Stewart, N. Roberts, J. S. Mauger, E. Bullmore.

The game was full of excitement from start to finish. The weather was beautifully fine and the field was hard and fast. The weather and ground were expected to be all in favour of the fast Canterbury forwards, but the Waikato players showed that they could handle any kind of going.

The score 6-all fairly represented the merits of the teams. Nine points came from penalty goals, D. B. Clarke kicking two for Waikato and Stewart one for Canterbury, the remaining 3 points being from the only try of the game, scored by the Canterbury captain, P. B. Vincent.

The closeness of the scoring and the keenness of the play kept the big crowd of 36,000 people

in a constant fever of excitement, and all were satisfied with a very hard game between two very fit teams. The tackling was hard and sure and few moves were allowed to get very far.

Features of the play were the excellent handling of the two full-backs, Clarke and Stuart, a sparkling display of quick and accurate handling by Reid, the Waikato half, and the good all-round play of McPherson and Elsom for Canterbury. I was most impressed with Clarke. His line kicking was an eye-opener.

The forwards on both sides worked hard from start to finish, but neither side had a monopoly of the play in any department. Mainly because of the effective tackling and the inability of individual players to break through, there were few orthodox passing rushes, although in these Waikato showed the greater initiative.

From the start of play, the Canterbury five-eighths kicked to gaps in the field in the hope that the fast three-quarters would bustle the opposing backs into mishandling.

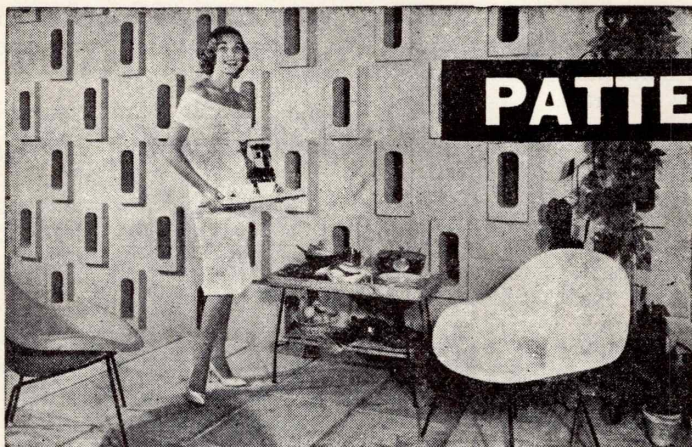
There was one thing most noticeable about the back play of the challengers and that was that their inside backs were inclined to run across the field. On three occasions in the second spell, from scrums near the Canterbury line, when Waikato heeled the ball it went straight out to the centre, who turned inwards and threw it under the goal mouth where a group of Waikato forwards stood waiting — evidently a rehearsed move.

I spoke about this to Dick Everest, the very capable Waikato coach, after the game, and he said they had decided that, on account of the excellence of the Canterbury cover defence, it would be a waste of time to try penetration.

After the game Pat Vincent, with his usual flair for saying the appropriate thing, said: "It was the hardest game I ever played in my life. The Waikato forwards were magnificent. Our pack could not subdue them; but they played wonderfully well to hold them. It was a good game, played in a good spirit." And so say all of us!

The invaders returned home in great spirit. People who thought that the "Mooloo" contingent would be a little subdued on their return to Hamilton without the Shield were agreeably surprised when the 500 or so frenzied spectators from the Shield game leaped on to the platform on Sunday night and began a parade equal to any seen during the height of Waikato glory.

At 9.15 p.m. the train arrived literally with a bang. A dozen detonators had been placed on



PATTERNS in

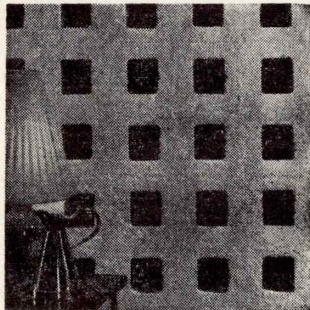
VIBRAPAC



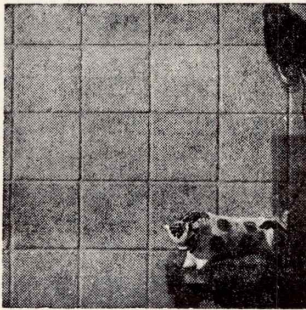
The wall on left ably illustrates the use of Lintel Blocks used conjointly with 8in. standard units, to provide an unusual decorative design.

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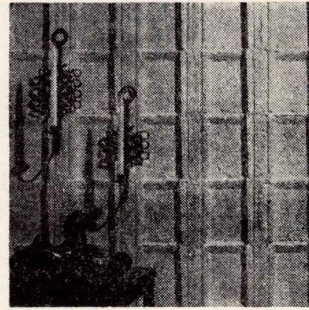
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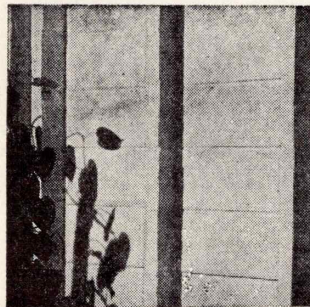
This pleasing design is constructed from 8in. Screen Wall Block units for outside or inside walls and partitions.



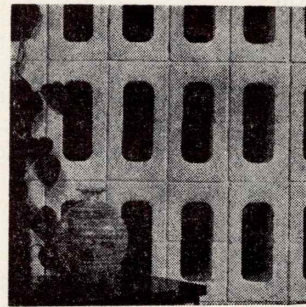
Exposed concrete masonry walls (like the one shown here), make a clean modular effect with the use of 8in. Quarter units.



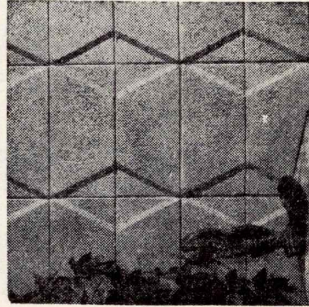
The interesting pattern above is achieved by placing the 8in. Half units on end—can be used inside or out.



Here is another combination of versatile Vibrapac utilising the Standard 8in. unit together with the 8in. Lintel and plain slab units.



Shown here is a decorative wall using Lintel units in stock bond pattern—yet another concrete masonry variation.



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the line, and as they exploded with the passing of the train the crowd began a roar which reached its crescendo when the train stopped. Then they had a procession around the platform before they dispersed. The now famous "K" locomotive on which so much care had been lavished, was tucked away carefully in its shed.

Mention should be made of three special

Dakotas which arrived back in Hamilton within a quarter of an hour of each other on the Sunday. Here, too, there was an enthusiastic crowd at Rukuhia airport, and all the passengers were delighted with the splendid game and wonderful trip.

The great invasion of 1954 was now only a memory.

TARANAKI ARE THE FOURTH CHALLENGERS

There was no such enthusiasm or Shield fever in Taranaki compared with Waikato. The Taranaki Herald, commenting in a leader on the fact that only five individuals could be gathered together who would fly to Christchurch, against five planes from Hamilton, said: "Undoubtedly if Taranaki had a reasonable chance of wresting the Shield from the Canterbury holders tomorrow that seasonal disease of Shield fever could have infected the province and encouraged supporters southward to Lancaster Park. Scepticism, however, measuring Taranaki's form and prospects are enthroned in New Plymouth and elsewhere in the province today."

Luck enters largely into Shield results. Taranaki, considering its standing among the provinces and the many fine teams it has put on the field, has not met with the success due to it. It could have easily carried the day in Auckland in 1912, when the result was 6-5 in favour of the defenders, and the day in which they should have acquired the Shield was at Christchurch in 1933, when they had to be content with a draw, 15-all.

This was the day when Hazlehurst's dropped goal gave the holders the necessary points to equalise the score and hold the Shield. Taranaki won seven Shield games and was defeated in 12 challenges, drawing one—a very small total for a province of Taranaki's standing. This was in the year 1939.

In 1953, Taranaki very nearly succeeded against Waikato, holding them to a draw 3-all. It's all in the luck.

Canterbury fielded the same team as played against Waikato.

Although the game was fast and open, with plenty of action, glaring weaknesses were again shown by the Canterbury backs, especially by those filling the inside back positions.

With much more experience than the young Taranaki backs, it was expected that the Canter-

bury three-quarters would dominate the game and run up a big score. However, the Canterbury forwards, who were regarded by many as being little short of invincible, met their match in the Taranaki men led by P. Burke, who was outstanding in the forwards, as was the lion-hearted Stuart in the Canterbury backs. Burke was magnificent, going high for the ball and handling in the manner of a Seeling. In all spheres of the game he was a great leader.

With an advantage in securing the ball in the line-outs, the Taranaki forwards were able to dictate the run of the play. They were faster and more mobile, and their quick breaks from the scrum had much to do with bustling the opposition's backs into mishandling. More than once the Taranaki pack split the Canterbury pack asunder with delightfully spirited dashes from broken play after line-outs.

Eastgate again played a terrific game for the holders. What a grand forward this man is! S. F. Hill was in his usual dashing form and engaged in several tussles with his brother B. Hill, a very robust forward indeed.

Now, this was a game which could easily have been won by the challengers. But one factor alone must have altered the whole aspect of the game. Earley, the Taranaki hooker, in the first few minutes of the second spell received a severe knock which may have been the turning point of the game. He would have been well advised to have left the field.

As it was, after 14 minutes' play there came what proved to be the decisive try. There was a scrum in front of the Canterbury posts, and Young won another tight head. Wilson, travelling fast, ran hard for the blind side, while Smith, from that wing, flashed into Wilson's vacated place and, timing his pass nicely, sent McPherson away with a clear field. Stuart converted, Canterbury winning by two penalty goals and a converted try to a penalty goal and a try.

The Taranaki try was outstanding and came as the result of some interesting open play. Young won a tight head and Vincent, going on his own, made a delightful opening. He veered out in an attempt to link up with Smith and, with the defence closing in around him, tried to get a long pass away to his winger. The ball went astray.

Skipper, the Taranaki centre, picked it up and set sail down the side line. He covered some 40 yards before being stopped by Stuart

on the Canterbury 15 line. Again the ball went loose until Smith darted in, tried to kick for touch and was hustled into miskicking.

The ball came down short of the Canterbury line and Riesterer snapped it up to score. Some brilliant play here!

After seeing this game one wonders how Burke could have been left out of the team for England, and also how far the penalty goal has altered the whole Rugby outlook.

THE COAST MAKES A BOLD BID

After losing the Seddon Shield to a strong Nelson team on August 21st, the West Coast made a brave effort to replace the trophy with the Ranfurly Shield, and on the 11th September went down by 8 points (a goal from a try, and a penalty goal) to nil. The weather was spring-like with a fairly fresh easterly wind, which appeared to present some difficulties to the goal kickers. Twenty thousand people were present.

A feature of the game was the number of infringements by each side, for there were 28 penalties, 14 against each side. Mainly because of the tenseness of the struggle, completed back movements were very few, and again the Canterbury three-quarters were almost starved of scoring chances. Much of this was attributed to the deadly tackling of the West Coast backs and forwards.

A Coast view by the Grey River Argus:

"It was probably the poorest Shield match this season. The Coast concentration on Pat Vincent and Doug. Wilson certainly kept the ball away from the defenders' dangerous three-quarters in Dixon, Smith and Elsom. As the second half wore on Canterbury looked rattled and Vincent took the opportunity offered by an injury, stopped for a quick, terse talk with some of the players.

"Next development was a sudden burst by Hill, Eastgate and Meates. This took play to where Stewart could kick his first penalty goal.

"And then Canterbury pulled one of their usual tricks, Wilson, without the ball, dashing for the blind side from a scrum in the Coast twenty-five, and Dixon shooting through (with the ball) in his place. It was neatly done, and the Coast from then on were doomed. It was not a game of personalities, being strictly Canterbury versus West Coast and a poor one at that."

There were only two changes from the Canterbury side which played Taranaki, Hern and Teague replaced Mauger and Bullmore.

There are certain games which, as the years pass, are cherished in the memory for some particular aspect. The Otago challenge was one such. It will be remembered for a noble effort by Otago, who fought manfully all the way through, playing football of high standard. The last quarter was whirlwind Rugby. Canterbury rose to great heights in fiery, sustained attacks which probed and tested the defence. And what a defence! Otago met these tigerish attacks with courage and spirit.

It cannot be said that Otago had much basis for optimism. Waikato had defeated them 22-3 and Southland 22-8. And though the Blues had prevailed over a weakened Canterbury team at Dunedin, only the most sanguine Otago supporters could have expected the province to show such magnificent form in the challenge game.

The Otago team was such an outstanding one, and contained so many polished footballers that a perusal of their names is of interest:

Otago

W. C. Wilson

D. Bradburn D. A. Grant C. B. Leadbetter
H. L. Smith W. R. Archer

L. J. Townsend

D. Gillespie, R. D. Darracott, D. W. Ludbrook (capt.), F. McAtamney, G. Nicholson, K. L. Skinner, L. M. Stevens, L. Kovaleski.

This provided one of the most exciting finishes in the history of the Shield. Otago established a lead of nine points (two penalty goals and a try) in the first spell and Canterbury's prospects of holding the Shield looked slender.

A magnificent recovery by the forwards in the second spell, and better support from the backs, resulted in a penalty goal and two tries, while Otago failed to add to its first-spell score.

The game will live in memory as one of the most exciting on record—a game full of incident from start to finish, contested by forwards who observed all the best traditions of the game, and by backs who tried all the tricks intensive training had taught them.

The Otago forwards, always capably directed by Skinner and Ludbrook, had the edge on the heavier Canterbury pack in the first spell, and the backs displayed initiative which was refreshing after some of the exhibitions seen on the Park that season.

Even with a lead of nine points for more than half the game, the Otago backs did not make a serious effort to tighten up the game, and it was probably the freedom with which they transferred the ball, instead of kicking it, that lost them the Shield.

For all the first spell, and parts of the second, the Otago forwards gave a glorious display of hard rucking, dribbling and line-out play. In the line-outs, Skinner and Ludbrook more than matched the Canterbury pair, altogether a grand pack with all doing their best.

For the second spell, the Canterbury forwards came up to the best form of the season, and it was lucky for the province that this was so. They were relentless, and met a very competent and well-drilled pack in Otago.

Eastgate again played a marvellous game. Meates, Hill, Davies, Hern and Teague were all at their best in the line-outs, besides being excellent in scrums and rucks. Young's dribbling and Roberts' cover defence were features of the game.

I thought that the play of the Otago centre backs, Townsend, Archer, Smith and Grant, was the best I'd seen in many a year. The combination between the insides was outstanding. Townsend never played better; his passes were quick and accurate. Archer moved into his passes with speed, and several times during the game his sharp, straight bursts took him past his opposite number, D. Wilson.

Smith, the fair-haired second "five," I liked enormously. He ran with speed and determination and kept the attack from running against the side lines. Grant, at centre—a strong-running centre—looked after Elsom.

The Canterbury backs gave a much-improved display, with Vincent showing his best form of the season. Wilson raced in to his passes with confidence, and McPherson did a vast amount of defensive work. The Canterbury threequarters line were subdued by the dash of their opponents.

For some reason I chose to witness this game on the planks just behind the southern goalmouth

and had a perfect view of the last magnificent quarter. Canterbury were throwing everything into a last desperate gambit.

About this time I noticed a large number of small boys encroaching on the dead ball area. The danger of someone rendering the dead ball was more than a possibility. I called on Pat Slattery, the New Brighton policeman, and an Air Force sergeant to help me push back the tide of small fry. There were hundreds of them.

Here is a Press reference to describe the closing score:

"Fifteen minutes after the second spell began, it was clear that Otago had a tiring team, and certainly it had been an exhausting pace. Spurred on by an almost unbroken wave of cheering, Canterbury began the long and inspired assault which was to save the day. With the score 9-6, Otago defended superbly, stemming what seemed an irresistible tide of red and black jerseys. The minutes flew by and still the defence creaked and groaned but would not give way. In these stirring moments, the Canterbury captain, P. B. Vincent inspired his team with some thrilling breaks, and S. F. Hill led the forwards like some raging giant.

"At this stage the thousands who had been sitting inside the fence were thick around the touchline, and the referee twice had to halt this tremendous battle to keep the crowd far enough back. Somehow, Otago hung on, and five minutes from the end, play went right down to the Canterbury line. It returned—but then Otago had a penalty kick and the ball went into touch with the time showing full time on the unofficial clock.

Then it happened. A long pass from Hill started a rush which was halted deep in Otago territory. Vincent started a blind side movement in which one of the forwards, E. Hern, and his second five-eighth, A. W. McPherson, handled before Mayo, who had raced up from fullback, took a pass and flung himself over the line.

"A delirious dancing crowd surged on to the field and, although for a moment Mr. Graham stayed where he had marked the position of the try, it was at once obvious that no kick at goal would be possible. One wonders if any Rugby match in New Zealand has ever bred such a scene. Mayo was seized and held high by elated admirers, and other members of the team formed to win the pavilion through the jostling, jubilant crowd."

What a moment! The great thrill was that you could see the try coming up. McPherson made a great dash and Elsom loomed up to take the pass. I believe it looked as if, when he was

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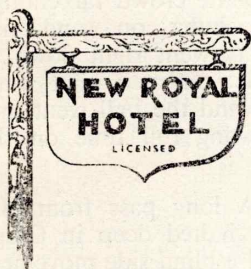
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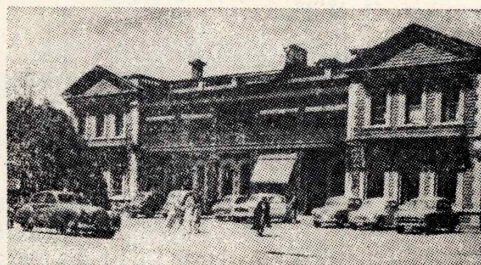
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passing the ball, Elsom was supposed to get it, but Mayo, who must have flown through the air, was going eyes out and he made an interception and dived over.

On congratulating Charlie Saxton after the game, I suggested his team had "run a bye." He smilingly denied the soft impeachment. Seldom has a team in New Zealand shown such magnificent form following several indifferent displays.

In praising the performance, Pat Vincent said, "It was the most thrilling and enjoyable of the challenges, and it was pleasing to be in a game where the other side are prepared to play open football. As for our own side, we can't leave our run any later than that."

The Canterbury team was the same as took the field against the West Coast. A game to remember!

CANTERBURY SHOWS SIGNS OF STALENESS

FOUR days after the Otago game, Canterbury faced Wanganui. Plainly tired, backs and forwards gave the poorest exhibition of football, to win by 17-13.

There was good reason for a display which did not do credit to Canterbury, and a flint-like surface made each man wary of a hard tackle. Even allowing for the tiredness of players, several made grave mistakes in handling and much of the tackling was weak.

There had been much criticism of Canterbury's quality as a Shield defender, and a well-known critic stated:

"The red and blacks have run the risk of criticism for playing only as well as they had to play in some matches. Time after time they have had to regain lost initiative, to come from behind when challengers had valuable points on the board. That is too dangerous a policy to have been played that way. Obviously, the Canterbury tacticians off and on the field have placed great store in physical condition to maintain a devastating second half. It has paid a handsome dividend, albeit in photo finishes."

It was lucky for Canterbury that a fine cover-defence player in Wilson and a very reliable fullback in Mayo were performing in something like their best form. Otherwise the Shield could well have gone to Wanganui. Each side scored three tries, Mayo's goal-kicking giving the advantage of four points.

A young, fresh team, Wanganui scored more points against the holders of the Shield than any other team that season, and, in some individual efforts showed speed and initiative in their work. The tries scored were the result of very weak tackling by the Canterbury backs, rather than by any combined work by Wanganui. It was the eighth Shield game that season and most of the players had had a surfeit of Rugby.

The form of the Canterbury backs was in striking contrast to that displayed against Otago on the previous Saturday, when the ball was handled with the ease and certainty of a team at the top of its form. With the exception of

Wilson, Mayo and Smith, the form of Canterbury was too bad to be true.

Vincent had a day off; but it was Wilson who was the best on the day. Playing under the greatest stress, he saved the day time and again with his brilliant cover defence.

Mayo gave a faultless display at fullback, kicking with length and accuracy and saving his tired forwards.

Canterbury won by 17 points (a goal from a try, two tries, and two penalty goals) to 13 points (two goals from tries and a try). Penalty goals saved the day. There were two changes in the Canterbury side. Mayo took Stewart's place at fullback and Small was number "eight."

Canterbury met its ninth challenge of the season when it beat Buller 22-0. This was the largest winning margin of the series.

The weather was more suited to cricket than to football and the flint-like surface of the Oval may have caused the reluctance of some players to tackle low or risk being tackled.

Although Canterbury always looked the better team, it was well on in the game before it scored its first try. The Buller team adopted the tactics so successfully exploited in keeping down the Canterbury scoring. Their forwards played loosely and the backs stood up level with the scrums, and sound tackling by the Buller backs, helped by very uncertain handling by all the opposing backs, kept the Canterbury three-quarters from making progress.

It was typical end-of-season football, with the Canterbury backs and forwards plainly showing the effects of the hard games played. As they filed on to the field before the start of the match, several were showing distinct signs of soreness.

Wilson went off in the second spell and his place was taken by Waine, who had not played since the Southland game. Coming on fresh, he was the most impressive back on the field and gave the Canterbury attack the initiative and sparkle it had lacked in the preceding games. The Canterbury inside backs had a day off.

Until the last 20 minutes of the second spell, the work of the Canterbury forwards did not compare with that shown in the grand play against Otago and Southland. Too many were using the scrum as something to lean on, although, towards the end of the game, there was pace and speed in the play of nearly every man.

Although beaten regularly in scrums and line-outs, the Buller forwards worked tenaciously until their condition failed them in the second spell. None was better than the lock forward, Cockfield, and as number "eight" forward, G. Anderson did much spoiling work and helped to keep the score to reasonable proportions.

Hendrickson and Corrie were useful break-aways; but, with a decided disadvantage in weight, Buller was no match for the huge Canterbury pack. The Buller centre, McArthur, showed much promise, and the wings, Hawes and White, were sound in defence. The half, Matthews, showed up well in tackling and rush stopping.

Canterbury won by 22 points (two goals from tries, two tries and two penalty goals) to nil. There was one change in the Canterbury team from that which played Wanganui. Roberts replaced Small.

Post Mortem: What place does the 1954 Canterbury team have on the ladder? The victorious Auckland teams who played in the years 1904 to 1913 did not arouse the spectators to great enthusiasm. In the first place, there was no such thing as "Shield fever"; there was an occasional exciting match but, truth to tell, Auckland were generally much too good for the opposition. In the Shield series, they scored an average of 16.3 points for, with 4.5 against, and were a very hard team to score against.

Hawkes Bay, who, I think, on occasions fielded the greatest of all fifteens, scored over

700 points in their sequence of 25 games, an average of 21.8 for and 8 points against. There was an occasional exciting game, but usually the Bay carried too many guns for the opposition—in 18 out of their 25 fixtures they scored 20 points and over, a phenomenal performance.

Now this 1954 Canterbury team, whatever may be said of their rating, had one great attribute; they were the most exciting team to follow in New Zealand Rugby history. Take the first game against Southland. The Southlanders scored 10 points in the first few minutes, and then Canterbury slowly overhauled them and got on top in the second spell.

Then there was Otago out in front by 9-nil at half time, and finally held to a nine-all draw by one of the most dramatic tries in the history of the game. Then Taranaki, whose forwards in strikingly good form upset the Canterbury insides to break even, 6-all at half time, only to see the holders make a second-spell effort to win 11-6.

Wellington in 1953 played exhilarating and spectacular Rugby, scoring 18 tries in six games. Canterbury kept its supporters on tenterhooks with the closeness of the matches, and excited them by the manner in which they came from behind to snatch the Shield back—and after so many people had made up their minds that it was lost.

Canterbury had an amazing record, attributable to great fitness and staying power, and also to the uncanny leadership of Pat Vincent who, with unerring judgment, knew when a weakness developed in his opponents and speedily capitalised it. I place Vincent among the great players of New Zealand Rugby—Duncan, Cooke, Nicholls, etc.—he moulded the play. It is a striking commentary in the failure of the selection panel when they failed to recognise his virtuosity.

CANTERBURY OFF TO A GOOD START IN 1955

An important fixture and a guide to subsequent form was the Wellington-Canterbury fixture at Wellington on August 23rd.

Inspired football on mud inches thick gave Canterbury an entirely satisfying win by nine points to three. Although they were often sorely pressed within their own twenty-five, when it came to attack they always looked formidable.

Rain, which started with a drizzle early in the morning, later became steady, and the ground was a quagmire in front of the stand. Seconds after the start, it was obvious that the game would be won or lost in the forwards.

The Canterbury forwards were a completely different unit which gave such a lethargic display

at Wanganui on the previous Wednesday. In hard driving and rucking they were often superb. In the tight they were at it bull-at-a-gate from start to finish, the forwards at their best. Duff was magnificent. Canterbury scored two tries and a penalty goal to a penalty goal.

The first challenge of the 1955 season came from Auckland on August 27th. They had greatly enhanced their chances by two good displays on their southern tour, having defeated Otago 14-8, and drawn, 14-all, with Southland. In the latter game they had all the best of it.

There was more than the usual pageantry at the Park. Just before the match began, the Northern District Artillery Band, which had

travelled from Auckland with the Rangitoto invasion party—the Auckland answer to Mooloo—gave a magnificent display of quickstep and slow marching and received a great ovation. Then the National Anthem was played in a strained, electric silence, followed by the immediate roar from the crowd.

There was drama enough, for Canterbury's fullback, K. C. Stuart, was knocked unconscious in the first half-minute of the match and had to be carried off on a stretcher. The incident caused one of the worst demonstrations of disapproval heard on Lancaster Park for many years and, to my mind, robbed Auckland of any chance of victory. It made the defenders buck into it and took a lot of the edge off Auckland's keenness.

I am also of the opinion that the blow which was delivered with the edge of the hand was not deliberate. Mayo, who replaced Stuart, played remarkably well and received an ovation.

The game, which showed many bare patches, was fiery. Backs on both sides quickly realised the risk of allowing the ball to bounce, and, almost without exception, they showed distinct cleverness in taking the ball in the air.

Actually the match developed mostly into a dour, hard struggle between the forwards, and in the end the Canterbury vanguard took the honours. The home forwards were more compact and thrusting than the Auckland pack which, as the second half progressed, was inclined to become a little too loose.

Although on the general run of the play Canterbury was the better side, Auckland had plenty of chances to turn the tables, but they quite surprisingly transgressed for a large part of the game from the traditional type of open play, which suggested that it was the holder instead of being the challenger.

Altogether, I thought that Auckland were perhaps the most formidable side seen on the Park for years. Their forwards seemed to be tougher than the generality of packs and were led with distinction by Sheen, a great forward.

The Auckland halfback, Davis, gave Brown, his first five, an exceptionally quick service, but until the last few minutes hardly showed his game at all. Brown, Magee and Lineen showed great pace and opportunism. The consensus of opinion was that it was one of the hardest matches played since the Shield came down from Wellington.

A most exciting match but both sides made many mistakes and, although the inside backs showed considerable ability, none of the wing-threequarters was given anything like a scoring opening from set play.

Most of Canterbury's cover defence was admirable, but many of those who watched the match must have left the ground wondering how

Auckland, who were faster in the backs and quicker to snap up chances, failed to score a try. I think the answer is that the defenders had a highly-developed understanding and spirit of side.

But whatever the scribes might say, for the bankers the game had everything. The hurly-burly of the game, its shifts of fortune, its pace and its tension kept the huge crowd in a frenzy of excitement, for Auckland was within sight of victory until the last four minutes of the game.

Auckland

P. Bull

J. M. Tanner T. Lineen F. McMullen
N. Brown A. Magee

K. Davis

H. L. White, B. McKenzie, G. Perry, D. Ludbrook, R. Katterno, J. Skeen, H. Emery, P. Hall.

Canterbury

K. C. Stuart

M. J. Dixon C. McDonald A. E. Elsom
S. K. Henderson J. Waine

P. B. Vincent

R. Moffat, J. Buxton, S. F. Hill, K. F. Meates, E. Hern, R. H. Duff, D. Young, E. Bullmore.

Canterbury won by two tries and two penalty goals to two penalty goals.

The Rangitoto party outdid "Mooloo," and this was the longest, large-scale invasion in history.. The Auckland party returned on the Sunday, after a journey more in keeping with that of victors than of vanquished, and rightly so. Five hundred people turned out at Taumarunui to meet the train at 5.30 p.m., and at Frankton, the Mooloo musicians kept a waiting crowd of 2000 people happy.

Mr. H. E. Colcott, president of the "Mooloo" club, was thanked by the Aucklanders for the unexpected welcome and, after 15 minutes, the train rolled out. At the end of the guard's van was the emblem, "While we live, we crow." These keen sportsmen arrived back in Auckland at 11 p.m.

South Canterbury were the next to challenge and their fixture was for September 3rd. Meanwhile, a strange malady manifested itself in Timaru and districts, which was diagnosed as "Shield fever."

There were great preparations for the invasion. It was only a 100-mile journey, so some 5000 or 6000 South Canterbury supporters made up their minds to travel to the game. All available buses from all sources had been chartered by football clubs, factories and hotel patrons, and a special train had been booked out on the afternoon before. Buses ran from Pleasant Point, Temuka, Fairlie and Geraldine, and hundreds of private cars were expected to make the run.

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It was noticed that a habit had grown of treating these Shield excursions as a picnic—something to be vastly enjoyed—and visitors could be seen in their parked cars enjoying the contents of well-filled hampers.

Thousands of enthusiasts in the district had received copies of a "Shield Anthem" composed for the occasion, so that besides the usual vocal support, the South Canterbury team should also be urged to greater efforts by this battle song.

South Canterbury thought it was as good as won, for, on all sides, it was that their team was the best the province had turned out for years. But victory was not for them. It is a great ordeal for young players to play an experienced team before a crowd who naturally would be inclined to be slightly partisan (what's that!).

Conditions were excellent for fast and open Rugby, though overnight rain had little effect on the ground. The match produced some sparkling football, but South Canterbury saw very little of the ball in the backs and did not have the same opportunities.

The defenders' forwards were probably the most formidable in the country at this time, and in rucks were unsurpassed. Its success in this sphere was due in no small measure to the hard slogging of Bullmore, Young, Hern, Meates and Teague, who always had their heads down. Hill, Buxton and Burry played very well in the tight, besides showing up in the loose.

The Canterbury rearguard moved like a piece of well-oiled machinery. In most games the reds played like a team, but on this occasion there were several stars—Vincent, McDonald and Dixon.

I think that McDonald was the best back on

the field. His brilliant dashes carved holes in the defence. Most of Canterbury's success was due to Hotop, who sent his supporters moving with speed and accuracy. Stuart at fullback was his usual rock-like self.

Gallagher and Proudfoot were the stalwarts of the South Canterbury pack, and it was through their efforts that South Canterbury were able to hold their own in the line-outs. Larkins, Craighead and Brooking worked tirelessly all day, and until he left the field injured, Kerr stood out in the loose.

There were good reports of M. D. Watson's play in recent games. He started well with some long touch-finders, but his game unaccountably trailed off and he showed inaccuracies in his play. It looked to me as if he found it trying to play before this big crowd. What a grand centre this man would make playing for a city team. Ashton and Cole, two likely looking wings, were starved of chances.

South Canterbury

	M. D. Watson	
J. M. Cole	R. J. Stoddart	L. Ashton
D. A. Grant		D. Taylor
	K. Cullen	
J. P. Larkins, T. Coughlan, J. P. Gallagher, I. Proudfoot, D. Craighead, M. Kerr, M. Casey, J. S. Brooking.		

There were four changes in the Canterbury team from the previous game. Osborne replaced Elsom, Hotop came into Waive's place and Burry and Teague went into the places vacated by Moffat and Duff.

Canterbury won by 19-6. This was made up of two goals from tries and three tries, to a try and a field goal.

WELLINGTON COMES FOR THE BODY

The feeling was widespread in Wellington that its team did not show its true form when it lost the Shield to Canterbury in 1953, that their men were invincible on their day, and hundreds of enthusiasts were travelling south to Christchurch to see their opinion vindicated.

Canterbury were to be slaughtered and elaborate preparations were made to ensure that the corpse of the defenders would receive the appropriate last rites. A coffin was ceremoniously, and with due respect, taken aboard the ferry steamer, preceded by a slogan which bore the words: "Wellington has come to collect the body!" This coffin was carefully painted in red and black, and on boarding, was sped with a great clamour of cheers, whistles and cowbells.

At 7 p.m. there was a queue of would-be passengers waiting on the chance of a berth being available; many were turned away and certain officers took a count to ensure that there was no overloading. Wellington colours were everywhere though a few Poncke supporters were careless enough to wear their club scarves.

Some had a feeling of misgiving when, looking up, they saw an expanse of red and black funnel, the colours of the Union Company. This seemed ominous.

The party carrying the coffin was in a ferment at one stage of the passage when its macabre cargo was reported missing and took its worries to the constable on board the ship. A little later, in the early hours of the morning, the

coffin was conducted to its rightful owners, though the mystery of its return remains unsolved.

But the pall-bearers did not get the body for interment. The cadaver was alive, very much alive, and must have had a blood transfusion since 1953.

My own idea of the game was that the challengers were up against a marked psychological factor and it was this: The Canterbury players, who had always held aloof from the squabbles between the two executives, took umbrage when the Wellington Union sent forth a fiat that they would not play if Canterbury were not in possession of the Shield on the date fixed.

The Canterbury players who had a very realistic view of their capacity, looked upon this as an infraction of the long-standing friendship between the players and decided to put their very best foot forward and show just what they could do.

This is from the pen of a Wellington writer: "It was an experience almost as humiliating for Wellington as that of 29 years ago when Hawkes Bay won by 50 points at Napier. Wellington's reputation provoked Canterbury into their best Shield defence, and it was a best which the challengers could not match.

"The stars were not propitious for Wellington. It was not a day for body-snatching, nor was it a day to enhance the good feeling between the teams. It is only natural that after the day's experience, a desire would gnaw at their vitals to give Canterbury a trouncing."

Wellington

M. V. Hodson
T. Katene M. J. Palmer R. A. Jarden
D. D. Wilson J. D. Dougan
A. J. Makeham.
M. Vodanovich, J. K. Sage, C. P. Williams, D. N. McIntosh, D. G. Harper, I. N. McEwan, W. H. Clark, L. A. Clark.

Canterbury

R. C. Stuart
R. M. Smith A. E. Elsom M. J. Dixon
S. K. Henderson J. Hotop
P. B. Vincent
E. Bullmore, D. Young, E. Hern, J. Buxton, K. F. Meates, R. H. Duff, S. F. Hill, R. Moffatt.

The story of the game was just this: Fifteen Canterbury footballers, playing as a team without any particular bright star, fairly outclassed Wellington. The game provided almost the perfect example of teamwork. Mistakes, of course, were made, but were quickly rectified.

Here is what Claude King had to say:

"There was only one team in it. Wellington made a gallant effort midway through the second spell, and they spun the ball around, but at the end Canterbury was going stronger and better. The Canterbury side has now moulded into a highly effective striking force, and appears destined to be rated amongst the best the province has fielded.

"The game compared more than favourably with some of the spectacular matches Wellington had when they held the trophy two years ago. There was only one answer to any question of how Canterbury won; they were just superior in almost every department of the game except line-outs. They won scrums by more than a two-to-one rate, and frequently won the ball on their own tight head. They heeled far more smartly from the rucks and their backs were more dangerous.

"Whereas Wellington's back play tended to be rather stereotyped, Canterbury's was full of variation, so badly needed in New Zealand Rugby, and often spreadeagled the Wellington defence.

"I am more than ever convinced, after seeing today's game, that any New Zealand side which does not have Hotop and S. F. Hill in it, is a faulty selection. Duff, Meates and Buxton were grand Canterbury forwards, and behind them Vincent played his customary clever game. He looks slow but is definitely a great asset to Canterbury."

To round off with another Wellington opinion, Ron Jarden said, "A great team, the best provincial side I have ever played against."

Well, there it was; the bogey was at last laid to rest. The coffin went into temporary storage and, a year later, was handed over to another Wellington invasion which was successful.

Canterbury scored 30 points made up of three goals from tries, two tries, two field goals and a penalty goal. Wellington scored 11 points, a goal from a try and two tries.

Four days later, Canterbury took the field against Australia and were beaten 19-8. The visitors played the finest football so far displayed by them on their tour. There was no Shield at stake in this game and the Canterbury backs took all kinds of risks, but it availed nought, for the Australians were right on form and Lancaster Park was always their lucky ground.

The Australians played sparkling football and threw the ball about with abandon. Stapleton, rated as the world's best wing threequarter, lived up to his reputation with some wonderful dashing runs. Australia's backing up and cover

defence were remarkable all through.

After the game I went into the dressing room to offer my congratulations to Wylie Brackenridge, the Australian manager. He was obviously very delighted at his team's success, and was emboldened to say that he thought they'd win the forthcoming test against New Zealand—which they did.

I think that this win gave him a false value of our football, for when the Springboks were about to start on their tour he remarked that Australia had a chance of defeating the Boks, but he gave New Zealand very little hope. Which goes to show that its dangerous to prophesy. Chance enters into everything in this life.

NORTH AUCKLAND OUTPLAYED ON HARD GROUND

Outplayed in most phases of the game, North Auckland was beaten by Canterbury by 39-11 on September 17th in one of the most decisive victories in the present series.

A north-west wind and a bright sun did not add to the comfort of the players or spectators. The hard ground took its full toll of players in injuries and one of the busiest men on the field was Dr. W. N. Paewai, manager of the North Auckland team, whose services were required at frequent intervals.

North Auckland used its five emergencies as replacements. Three Canterbury players, Vincent, Dixon and Bullmore, left the field.

There were several absentees owing to the test match against the Australians. McDonald took Elsom's place and Waine went in in place of Hotop, Burry, Cochrane and Teague took the places of Hill, Duff and Buxton. The absence of these five leading players did not appear to affect the Canterbury scoring machine seriously. It displayed plenty of dash and a good understanding between the players.

The consistent backing up and grand cover defence were attributes unfortunately not possessed by their opponents. Henderson converted six of his side's tries and kicked two penalty goals as well. Vincent's place was taken by Molloy. Canterbury won by 39 points, made up of six goals from tries, a try and two penalty goals. North Auckland scored 11 points, a goal from a try and two penalty goals.

For some time I thought that Auckland's effort was the best to date, but I'm not so certain. Otago came with a great run and almost carried the day. In spite of its unimpressive record for the season, Otago measured up well, and many of the 20,000 spectators thought that it was unlucky to lose one of the most exciting challenges since their 9-all draw of the previous year.

Otago led 5-3 at half time after a long period of consistent attacks, and 8-6 until half way through the second spell. However, Henderson's four penalty goals, one in the first half and three in the second, were the match-winning factors,

backed up by a try on time, by the wing R. M. Smith.

It was a hard game in which no quarter was asked, and so fierce was the struggle that players on both sides introduced tactics which would have been more suited to the boxing or wrestling ring. Each side in turn was responsible for this but the players themselves cannot be blamed for the distinct partisanship shown by the Canterbury supporters.

This was shown when Otago had scored its first try in the first spell, and when Wilson, the fullback was preparing for a penalty kick at goal in the second half, the incessant barracking by a section of the crowd continued. Apparently this is one of the things you have to put up with when you hold the Shield. Some seem to lose all sense of proportion and forget the first principles of sportsmanship. In fairness, I must say most of this clamour came from schoolboys.

The play was as fast and rugged as the most ardent supporter of Rugby could ask for, and though it was almost devoid of sparkling back movements, the tackling halted many promising moves.

Otago played a typical brand of good honest football with a lighter, and possibly more mobile pack of forwards continually worrying the heavy team which Canterbury had put on the field. The general opinion after the game was that Otago had provided the most severe test in two years. Canterbury was saved by some great kicking by Henderson, who scored 12 of his side's 15 points.

In the first half, Otago had the better of the game, leading as we have seen by 5-3 after narrowly missing several tries and penalty kicks at goal. In the second half, Canterbury, true to tradition, plainly the fitter team, exploited all its tricks and had the better of the game. This struggle is one that will be remembered not so much for the brilliance of the attacking movements as for the hard, scientific struggle in the forwards and the grand tackling of the backs.

Canterbury's win must certainly be attributed to the splendid kicking by Henderson, and to the very shrewd kicking and generalship of Vincent, who appeared ready to meet any emergency and often figured in very clever defence. McDonald, at centre, was right on top of his form and thrilled the crowd with his spirited dashes.

Wilson, for Otago, gave a great display at fullback, while Diack and Pickard showed that they knew what to do with the ball when it came to them. Archer and Townsend played soundly together.

The teams:

Otago

W. C. Wilson
E. S. Diack C. J. McDonald T. J. Pickard
P. Flannery W. R. Archer
L. J. Townsend
W. M. Irwin, J. Stevens, L. Kovaleski, R. A. McMeekan, D. Caughly, F. McAtamney, D. Gillespie, J. H. Henderson.

Canterbury

K. C. Stuart
M. J. Dixon C. A. McDonald R. M. Smith
J. Hotop S. K. Henderson
P. B. Vincent
E. Bullmore, D. Young, E. Hern, J. Buxton,
K. F. Meates, R. H. Duff, S. F. Hill, N. Teague.

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TWO CHALLENGES

West Coast and Thames Valley Remained

The weather was summery for the Coast game on the 24th September and the ground was hard. Although the Coast had not won a game in the season, it played surprisingly well, with a deficit of only three points at half time, and its fiery forwards and sure-tackling backs often severely tested the Canterbury defence.

Canterbury looked its best half-way through the second spell, and within a space of seven minutes added 11 points to its tally to establish a lead of 20-6. Just on time Coast added a further five points.

The lighter West Coast pack lost nothing in comparison with the Canterbury pack, and what they lacked in weight they made up in relentless tackling, fast following up and a quick breaking from scrums.

In the first half they were especially fiery and only for a period in the second half did

the Canterbury pack show its superiority. The holders brought all their tricks into play, but nearly all were met by resolute and sharp counters. A dropped pass spelt trouble for Canterbury, for opposing backs and forwards were always ready to take advantage of these lapses.

As fullback for the Coast, A. McNab started shakily but improved. Once he gained confidence he did everything expected of him, racing into high punts and tackling with zest. Gugich showed rare determination in scoring a try. He played for the South two years before and should have gone to the United Kingdom in 1953.

Little was seen of Lindbom on the other wing. He retired early and his place was taken by R. Steel, who did well. At centre, Stratford performed well to keep the speedy McDonald in check, but the mainspring of the Coast rearguard

were the two five-eighths, A. Negre and A. Dawson, who foiled all the attempts of the Canterbury insides to get going. J. Dawson played a very plucky game at half.

T. Bird, at No. 8, in the Coast forwards, was in fine form and continuously worried the opposing backs. He should have a good future. In the line-outs, P. Henderon and T. Edgerton were most prominent, while K. Foster and R. Inkster were in splendid form as breakaways.

Dixon was in tremendous form for Canterbury and scored three tries, which rewarded him for a first-class display of initiative and resource on attack, and fine work in cover defence. There were two changes in the home side; Mayo took Stuart's place at fullback and Moffatt went in as No. 8 in place of Teague, who went into the second row in place of Hill.

Vincent, who played an outstanding game though he received a severe blow on the face in the second spell, never lost control of the game. He said: "The game seemed a matter of tactics—whether we should make play in the open from a very tight defence and not give away possession. The balance was dictated by the forwards, who prevented the opposition from spreading too much, and an occasional burst enabled us to get through."

Canterbury won by 20 points—a goal from a try, three tries and two penalty goals to a goal from a try, a try and a penalty goal.

Then T.V. came to town. The T.V. we speak of is not television or the Tennessee Valley Authority, but Thames Valley, a small union which is rapidly coming to the front.

They experienced a very good year in 1954, defeating Auckland 25-17, Bay of Plenty 32-nil, Wairarapa 11-3 and Manawatu 11-6.

It was on the score of this form that the Canterbury delegates to the annual meeting of the New Zealand Rugby Union considered that this was a side which was entitled to try for the Shield. This year they also had some good wins, defeating Waikato 13-11, East Coast 30-6 and New Zealand Maoris 17-14.

Canterbury fielded a strong side in which there were only two changes from the side which defeated Wellington earlier in the season. McDonald was in Elsom's place and Teague came in in place of Hill.

Thames Valley

M. Jacomb	R. Lawrence	
	F. Martinovitch	R. Fisher

G. Morris T. Gregory

R. Giddy

D. Gordon, J. Innis, R. J. O'Shea, R. McHardy,
B. Clark, I. McDonald, J. Olsen, B. Coxhead.

There was a picture in one of the Christchurch papers of the scoreboard at Lancaster Park on the Tuesday before the game. Some wags from the Thames had put up the score Thames Valley 61, Canterbury 3. But it turned out to be nothing like that. Although the Thames Valley made a valiant effort to win, they couldn't quite cope with Canterbury's tricks, pace and sudden changes of direction.

To a large extent it was a case of a thoroughly seasoned team, slightly jaded, meeting a younger side, full of keenness and zest, but lacking something in artifice and knowledge of when to apply extra pressure. Most of all, the challengers lacked pace in the backs, and were often taken unawares by the speed of the Canterbury attack.

Early on, the holders gave a taste of their quality. Vincent made one of his loping runs from the scrum, passed to Henderson who kicked downfield to Lawrence, who booted for the line. Almost immediately Canterbury turned a line-out into a quick ruck. Vincent got the ball to Dixon, on the right, waiting alongside Dixon was Teague and he went over.

Then there was the holders' third try—a most spectacular one. Smith came from the left as extra man, took a pass from Vincent, and cross-kicked. McDonald, the Canterbury centre, raced up unmarked to gather the ball, and dashed over.

Thames Valley scored one of the brightest tries in the second spell. After several forwards had swept along in a dribbling rush, Fisher picked up a loose ball and ran on till stopped by Stuart and Smith, then he passed to Coxhead, who barged on. A quick ruck developed and Morris, the Thames Valley five-eighth snapped up the ball and dived over for a try. The visitors brought down the house with a grand try scored in the last few seconds of the game. Canterbury 24, Thames Valley 11.

This was a special challenge, which meant that the expenses of the challengers, some £500, would be a charge on the gate. But for this provision in the Shield rules, teams would not be enabled to make long trips in quest of the coveted trophy. These trips gave visitors an opportunity of seeing something of the South. The visitors were able to see the magic of Christchurch at blossom time, and were entranced with the daffodils in the woodlands along Riccarton Avenue.

THE CURTAIN IS RUNG DOWN ON 1955

After the game there was the usual function under the stand. Here was an atmosphere of relief, as the hard going was over for a season. The president, Mr. Dalley, said that it was the first time that Thames Valley had come south and that everybody had enjoyed the way in which they threw the ball about, providing perhaps the brightest game of the year.

Neil McPhail, selector and coach of the forwards and an old Kiwi forward, said: "This season's best match was against Wellington, not only because of the result but also on account of the way Canterbury rose to the occasion. One of the reasons for our success is that we had a good training squad; when four or five dropped out for the New Zealand teams, with no disrespect to them, we hardly missed them, for the men taking their places had been trained to stand in for them."

It was left for the manager of the Thames Valley team to say the last word: "Canterbury gave us a wonderful game. I don't think that I have ever seen such football played before, even by All Blacks. I knew when I saw the dry ground that Canterbury would be on top."

The Shield is a great thing for the Union lucky enough to have it. The gross takings at Lancaster Park for the year 1954 from Shield games was £23,811, of which £5954 went to the Lancaster Park Board.

The new No. 5 stand cost more than £4900 and would be paid for, partly by the Board and partly by those using the ground. When wages

and other expenses were deducted the amount left for the Rugby Union would be £15,858. The union had some heavy commitments, having a mortgage on its office property in Manchester Street, and intended to clear the mortgage of £4000 on Rugby Park.

The attendance and gross takings for the nine matches of the 1954 season were:

		£
Southland	32000	4172
Wairarapa	13500	1481
South Canterbury	22000	2555
Waikato	36500	4670
Taranaki	16000	1857
West Coast	19500	2395
Otago	28000	3557
Wanganui	11000	1190
Buller	18000	1950
	196500	£23817

		£
1955 figures:		
Auckland	33000	4200
South Canterbury	27000	3300
Wellington	34000	4350
North Auckland	20000	2450
Otago	24000	2035
West Coast	21000	2478
Thames Valley	20000	2236
	179000	£21949

The figures for 1955 show an increase. The average Shield gate was £3135 for that year compared with £2424 for 1954.

1956 — THE YEAR OF DECISION

WHEN Canterbury faced its first challenge of the new season on August 22nd, the South African tour was drawing to a close. Many of the players were suffering from a surfeit of football and were feeling somewhat jaded.

It was thought that if the holders' form against Mid-Canterbury was any indication, then their hold on the Shield was an extremely shaky one. It was their 19th game in defence of the Shield and was without doubt the most unenterprising and poorest the province had played in the series.

After leading by the very narrow margin of 3-nil at half time, Canterbury scored another 11 points in the second spell to win by 14-6. The winners' score was made up of a converted try,

two tries and the inevitable penalty goal, to a field goal and a penalty goal.

The main reason for the spectators' boredom was the extremely large number of stoppages caused, in the main, by too-frequent line-kicking. In 80 minutes of play there were 138 stoppages—97 line-outs, 21 scrums and 28 penalties, from which line-outs also resulted. Not once did the ball get out to the wings on either side.

Canterbury

R. M. Smith	G. Patterson	M. J. Dixon
S. F. Henderson	A. E. Elsom	J. Waive
	P. B. Vincent	
N. Roberts, H. C. Burry, R. H. Duff, D. McMillan,		
N. Teague, E. Hern, D. Young, J. LeLievre.		

The Hawkes Bay match, as one paper expressed it, showed that the fires of Canterbury football, which some thought were extinguished, were only banked.

In the first spell, Canterbury seemed uncertain, but once the first try was scored there was only one side in it. The red forwards were magnificent and the backs played with tremendous confidence, as well as considerable skill.

Half an hour before the end, Hawkes Bay led by 6-nil and there was little indication that the holders were capable of the effort needed to retain the Shield, but in the last 15 minutes they scored 18 points, with four tries, and the final score at 21-9. Altogether they scored five tries which must rank as among the very best in their tenure of the Shield.

For the challengers, Edwards at fullback was their best back, and Kivill at five-eighth showed much promise. In the forwards, Hogg and Hargreaves were the best, the latter until his form gave out in the second spell. The Canterbury side against Wanganui on the 1st September was minus Hill, Young and Duff, who were away in Auckland where the fourth test was being played.

Canterbury

G. Patterson

R. M. Smith A. E. Elsom C. McDonald
S. F. Henderson S. G. Bremner

P. B. Vincent

N. Roberts, H. C. Burry, N. Teague, D. McMillen,
J. Buxton, E. Hern, J. D. Stewart, W. J. Whineray.

The broadcasting of the fourth test against the South Africans was reflected in the attendance at Lancaster Park which was the smallest, 12,000, that had attended since 1953. In 1955 the attendances averaged between 25,000 to 28,000 a

Saturday. In 1956 the average was some 13,500.

Wanganui lost its chance to take the Shield by failing to subdue the Canterbury forwards in the tight rucking play. Success against Canterbury is dependent on teams being able to master the Canterbury pack in this department of the play. Wanganui played too loosely to do this.

At first Bremner suffered from the attentions of the Wanganui wing forward, Potaka, from the end of the line-out, but Vincent nullified this by throwing longer passes.

Canterbury's total was made up of two goals from tries, two tries and a penalty, against two penalties.

West Coast played on the 5th September. There were 12,000 people present and the gate was £1205.

For half an hour or more the West Coast flank forwards kept a tight rein on the Canterbury inside backs, but once the visiting forwards flagged, the whole of the holders' team took part in some thrilling movements. Sometimes half a dozen men would carry the play seventy-five to a hundred yards in great sweeping rushes. In the second half, the pace and handling of both backs and forwards was good. In this game Vincent became a "centenarian," having played a hundred games for his province. The Coast played valiantly.

On the 8th September, South Canterbury were the challengers and led until half way through the first spell, playing good, rugged football all through the game. They were two points behind the holders until mid-way through the second spell.

But as time went on, the speed and experience of the Canterbury pack brought the score up to: Canterbury 32, South Canterbury 17.

SPEED THE SWEDE

This was the slogan of the Southland invasion party, not so numerous as in past years but with the same old boisterous Southland enthusiasm.

This was the sixth match of the 1956 season and 20,000 people were drawn to the Park on the 15th September. Southland offered a most determined resistance and it was a most satisfactory win by the holders, who prevailed by 17 points to 3, a total which comprised only three tries.

The maroons made no attempt at passing until the final stage of the match, but their vigorous young pack harried the opposing team's inside backs with their driving footrushes.

The Southland forwards lasted far better than most visiting packs that season, but in their eager-

ness gave away many penalty kicks. These tactics hustled Canterbury for a long time, but they eventually played with typical liveliness and cohesion. The most spectacular moments were provided by the holders with back movements from the open, and there were many of them.

Vincent said after the game that "Southland was the most balanced team we have yet played and its defence was very hard to break." Canterbury 17, Southland 3.

Of the Wellington pack which was defeated by Canterbury in 1955, five were in the challenging team on September 15th, 1956, and this time they did collect the body.

Wellington scored an opportunist try 12 minutes from the start and kicked a penalty goal

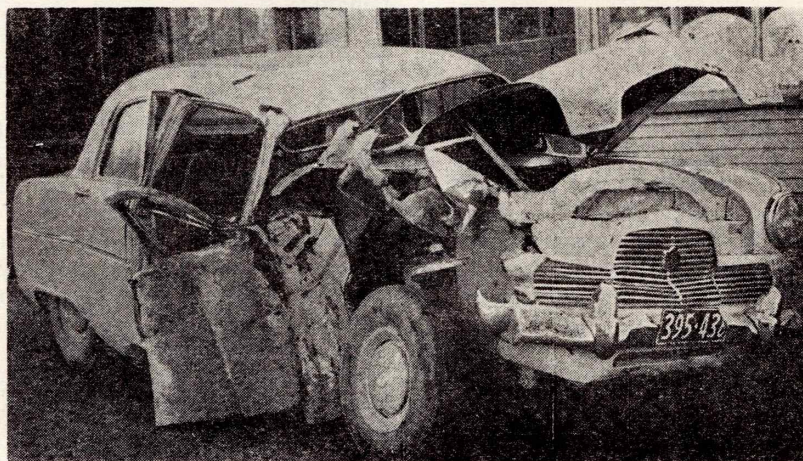
in the dying moments of the game. Between times it was a tremendous struggle among the forwards, with the Wellington inside backs using the touch line persistently, and Canterbury making desperate efforts to break the Wellington defence in depth.

At times the Wellington pack was reduced to six to meet the demands of the team's tactics, the two forwards being used as backs to meet and nullify nearly all Canterbury's attacks.

In its tenure of the Shield, Canterbury's success was built on the ability of its forwards

to master the opposing pack. On this occasion their forwards were held in check by a determined and powerful pack and by tackling, which kept Canterbury tied up.

Wellington operated a defence tactic which they used with varying success in several games that year. The All Black forward, W. H. Clark, first made his appearance in the backs some 15 minutes before the interval, and he was very frequently used after that as an extra five-eighth in attack and in defence. As an auxiliary full-back, L. A. Clark joined him, and these two

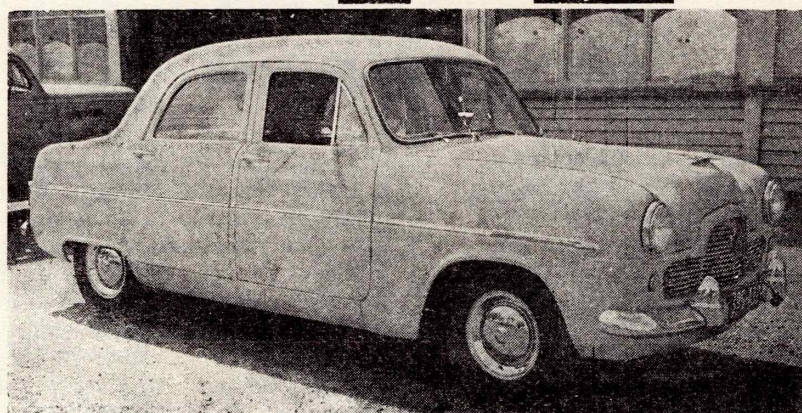


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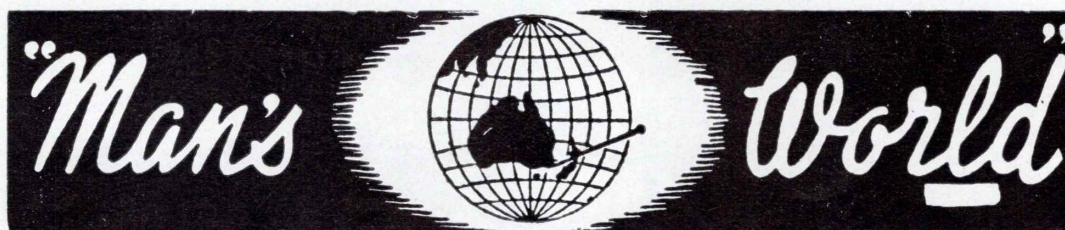
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Victory to Taranaki. P. S. Burke, the Taranaki captain, and some of the members of the victorious team with the Ranfurly Shield after the win over Otago at Carisbrook.



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nullified the work of Vincent and Bremner. But the pack had to be subdued if this tactic was to be successful.

The Wellington pack, however, turned on a great game and six of them were left to hold the Canterbury eight. It was a game in which the home team had few, if any, opportunities in the bounce of the ball—which can mean so much—and Wellington seemed to be a yard or so quicker to move into the ball.

The holders were sadly disorganised in the first spell. The close attention of the Wellington forwards bsted Canterbury into repeated mistakes and even when the home backs had ample room they made far more mistakes than usual.

In the last 20 minutes, Canterbury, with Vincent setting a noble example, thrust again and again, but the resilient defence held. This game was tense, but unexciting and the challengers cannot be blamed for lack of enterprise. They rose to the occasion in great style. There was no doubt about their victory—it was well deserved.

On the Wellington side, McIntosh, whom I would give much of the credit for evolving the "W" plan which brought victory, was in great form and played a captain's game. Little, if anything, behind him were Vodanovich, Dick and Hutchinson. McEwan was probably the best line-out forward on either side.

Both Clarks were in everything, but the player who made the most impression was the fullback, Johnstone, who played an inspired game. The manner in which he moved up to take the ball in the face of the pounding forwards was phenomenal.

Makeham played the right kind of game most competently and was able to give Dougan the necessary breaks. Dougan was fast and elusive and one wonders, if he was playing like this in 1953, how he missed the All Black jersey.

Wellington owes its possession of the Shield primarily to its tactics, and then to its virile forwards who made it possible to carry out the plan, and finally to the inspired play of Johnstone, Dougan and Makeham.

Wellington

J. Johnstone

N. Nicholls A. S. Clarke M. J. Palmer

T. Puketapu J. G. Dougan

A. Makeham

L. A. Clark, J. B. Hutchinson, W. H. Clark, D. N. McIntosh, I. N. McEwan, W. G. Dick, G. Harris, I. Vodanovich.

Said under the Stand:

McIntosh—"It is one of the hardest games I've ever played in. Our forwards, apart for a short spell, were on top throughout, and that with

hard tackling and chasing the ball, is where we won the game. I thank Canterbury for the sporting spirit in which the game was played."

Vincent—"They played the game better than we played it—an example of good, intelligent Rugby. It has been very nice while we had the Shield, and I would like to thank the coaches, the team and the Canterbury public for all the support they have given us. To the team I say no regrets, we did our best, and the spirit and feeling have been great."

And there is no doubt about it, the spirit had been great. The Canterbury public, over three years, had been treated to the greatest succession of thrills, transcending anything previously seen. Canterbury in its tenure of the Shield played 24 games, scoring 474 points for, with 136 against, an average of nearly 20 points with 5.5 against for each game. This compares favourably with most of the past Shield efforts.

I must confess that I did not entertain the idea that Wellington might win back the Shield and had come round to the thought that only those unions which could call on country players were likely to hold the Shield. If you look over the records of the last 20 years you will see that, for the most part, it has been held by Otago, Southland, Waikato and Canterbury—unions which have leaned heavily on their country players.

Here I must pay a tribute to the man who was responsible for Canterbury's success—Pat Vincent. We have seen none like him in New Zealand Rugby since Jimmy Duncan, who controlled the run of the play.

I admit at first I thought he was too unorthodox, but when I watched him closely I saw a master at work. Without him, Canterbury would have been ordinary. He lifted them to an excellence rarely seen. Moreover, he was an intellectual, a rare quality in muddled oafs, and if you listened to him explaining with a clarity of expression the American scene, which had always been an enigma to me, you would realise this. This was after his coaching spell in California.

His approach to football problems was very practical. He saw clearly that one of the difficulties of defence was a scrum on the line, from which so many penalties came. He drilled his team on the technique of letting the other side have the ball and gathering it from them. Another good piece of strategy was to bring the wing in as an extra man for him to run through to take the tackle, a quick heel and over. Canterbury scored many tries this way.

I thought he was scandalously treated by the New Zealand selectors in 1956. He played well in the first test but they dropped him after the second test when he had an indifferent lot of

forwards in front of him. It seemed to me that they were always looking about to find people who would criticise his play and so have an excuse to drop him.

A well-known cricketer was asked by Tom Morrison what he thought of Vincent, and he replied: "If you think in terms of cricket, he'd be like Sutcliffe. You'd never get him out."

Well, there it is. They preferred little men to him. Men whom they could control from the side line. Vincent was a Triton among the minnows, but such was the poverty of judgment displayed that he became the victim of a badly-placed prejudice.

Wellington played one game for the Shield in 1957, at Athletic Park on September 29th and against Auckland.

Auckland

N. T. Brown

L. C. Russell R. F. McMullen J. M. Tanner
T. R. Lineen T. J. Riley

K. Davis

J. R. Skeen, R. H. Emery, D. J. Graham, H. L. White, A. P. Morrow, E. Bullmore, R. W. Wall, A. Pryor.

Wellington

I. Johnstone

R. A. Jarden A. S. Clark T. Katene
L. P. Puketapu J. G. Dougan

A. J. Makeham

W. H. Clark, I. N. McEwan, D. N. McIntosh, I. M. Vodanovich, L. A. Clark, J. B. Hutchinson, G. Harris, W. G. Dick.

Unlike the game played between Wellington and Canterbury a week earlier, the match had many bright passages, especially in the first spell. Wellington reverted to line-kicking only in the second spell, when the scores were even and the home forwards flagging.

As in Christchurch, this policy paid. It gave the Wellington forwards a breathing spell which enabled them to control the game in the last 15 minutes.

In some respects, the game was unsatisfactory. Dropped passes at times spoilt many brilliant movements and many worthless shots at field goals from all sorts of positions did nothing but slow the game up. Wellington's tackling was fairly good but not as effective as the week before, and in this department Auckland had a decided superiority.

Comment: "There were many breaches of the line-out rules—mainly by Wellington. On one or two occasions McEwan was assisted to jump for the ball by Vodanovich and at other times the Wellington forwards ahead and behind McEwan formed a wedge to prevent the Auckland forwards jumping for the ball."

Most of the penalties given against Wellington came from line-out irregularities. At one stage of the game tempers became a little strained and Pryor, one of the worst offenders, was warned twice. For all that, however, some exciting and good football was played. In the opening stages, before Wellington settled down, Auckland used loose forward rushes with great success, and Wellington was hard put to keep its line intact.

Wellington faced the year 1957 with confidence. There were many who thought that the province possessed the best pack in the long provincial history. It is a common mental exercise, like crossword puzzles or a quiz, to put forward this or that team as the best on record. The players of the present generation always seem to be the best.

But, as regards past Wellington packs, I cannot think of any produced by the province which could compare with their packs of 50 years ago. What grand forwards! There was the superb trio, "Ranji" Wilson, Tom Cross and "Bumper" Wright. These men were really terrific. Then there were Jack Spencer, E. H. Dodd, E. H. Watkins, J. Carlson, H. Driscoll and W. J. Hardham, V.C.

Otago had the fourth challenge. Wellington had already disposed of Bush 22-9, Poverty Bay 15-3 and Wanganui 34-5. Otago arrived quietly and few in the Capital City gave them a chance.

Charlie Saxton is not only a great tactician whose knowledge of back play is unrivalled, but also an adept at concealing the potential of his side. He descended on Christchurch twice during Canterbury's tenure of the Shield and twice he confounded them with the brilliance of his sides which, like a conjurer, he brought out of his Rugby hat.

How did Otago do it? It was their magnificent rucking in front and the brilliant handling of their backs going at top pace that did the trick. It was a combination on the day which showed rare quality.

It was a gripping, tense struggle which featured some of the finest scoring movements seen on the Park in many years. It was particularly sweet for Otago, who had broken a 49-year "hoodoo." It was that long since they had defeated Wellington on Athletic Park.

It must not be supposed that Wellington were not in the picture at any time. They had their chances. In the first spell their tackling was, on the whole, indifferent. Had they taken hold of the game then, things might well have been different. But they were never able to get a hold and it was Otago, right on form for the game that counted, which produced just that extra speed and devil necessary to bring victory.

It was a triumph for Otago, and it was gained with such a smooth efficiency as to suggest that if the southerners can play such football in the future they will be hard to beat.

Wellington, in the previous challenge, was assured of plenty of the ball, but against Otago it was a different story. In the first 20 minutes it was all Otago in scrums and line-outs.

What surprised and delighted the crowd was the beautifully clean handling of the Otago back division. They all ran strongly, drew their men sweetly and gave good passes. The insides, Townsend, Prain and Levien, functioned smoothly.

Levien, on the day, was a star in his own right; Grant at centre, a grand performer and a natural centre. It is surprising that a man of his accomplishments has not been capped for New Zealand. After all, he displayed exactly this form in 1954 against Canterbury.

Our trouble is that we do not take enough care to elect selectors who can see the merit in such players as Grant. His quality stuck out a mile. Diack was an absolute champion on the wing and was a big factor in Otago's success.

Wellington came away in the second spell but had too much leeway to make up. Their best performer was the ex-Christchurch High School player D. D. Wilson, who played a fine game on the wing.

Otago

J. N. Darling
N. J. Clark D. A. Grant E. D. Diack
H. T. Levien C. Prain
L. G. Townsend
W. D. Gillespie, J. A. Buxton, G. W. Dennison,
N. Jones, R. T. Conway, T. C. McAtamney,
I. M. Stevens, L. T. Kovaleski.

Wellington

B. W. Karam
B. J. Allan W. S. Fleming D. D. Wilson
J. Palmer J. G. Dougan
L. A. Clark, D. N. McIntosh, I. H. MacEwan,
W. Tarpley, W. H. Clark, J. B. Hutchinson,
J. K. Sage, I. H. Vodanovich.

This was an unusual game inasmuch as all the tries scored had the stamp of quality about them. There were tries scored from set pieces of play in which there was fine handling and perfect backing up. There were striking individual efforts that were crowned with success. There were no scrambling tries, no "boil overs."

Otago opened their scoring account with a beautiful try and followed with others of real

quality. Wellington, also, contributed to the high standard of play with some high-class rushes in which Wilson starred.

After ten minutes of play, from a scrum in the Wellington twenty-five, Townsend was off-side and was penalised. Karam failed to find touch and Grant drove the ball out near the Wellington try line.

From a throw-in a ruck was formed. A quick heel saw Townsend swing his backs into action. Levien cut in, whipped the ball to Grant, who swung it to Diack. Diack was faced by Wilson and Fleming, who looked like would-be tacklers. He propped and went in for a grand try. There was no conversion. Levien intercepted a pass and raced into the clear, but was dropped by Karam.

From a line-out at half-way, Otago launched a brilliant attack. Levien shot through a gap. Buxton loomed up, whipped it out to Grant, who made no mistake. Diack converted.

Wellington next came into the picture with a nice effort. After 30 minutes, from a scrum, Wilson raced infield, found a gap and reverse-passed to Palmer, who went in for a try. Karam goaled.

Next Karam was caught in possession. From a quick heel and a quick ruck, Diack raced infield, burst through a tackle to unload to Levien, who went in. Diack converted, bringing the score to 13-5 in Otago's favour. The crowd, though surprised at the turn of events, were full of enthusiasm for the fine effort of the challengers.

Fifteen minutes after the opening of the second spell the issue was put beyond doubt when Townsend kicked over Karam's head and was obstructed. Diack raised the flags from the resultant penalty.

Otago kept up the pressure. On his line, Allen kicked up the centre and Darling fielded nicely. Darling steadied himself and put his boot into the ball, which sailed between the uprights.

In the final 10 minutes, Wellington pressed strongly. A long pass from Makeham was beautifully taken by Palmer, who sent it on to Fleming. The latter put it in the air, and Wilson, coming up fast, took it neatly and was through the opposition. There was no conversion.

Wellington still pressed. With only a few minutes to go, Johnstone came in a rush, and sent the ball on to Wilson. It went infield to Fleming, who ran in for a grand try. No conversion. Otago 19, Wellington 11. A game in which each side played football at its best.

CANTERBURY'S FINE SHOWING

After Otago had won the Shield they embarked on a long tour of the North Island. A number of the best players returned to Dunedin and it soon became evident that the quality of the available reserves was sub-standard. They were beaten several times.

On the way home on September 11th, they met Taranaki at New Plymouth. The Otago team differed very much from that which carried off the Shield. Darling, a grand full-back, played in both games, as did Clark and Diack. Moody and Hotop were the five-eighths, and Townsend was again half-back. Only Gillespie, Kovaleski and Jones of the forwards played in both games.

Taranaki won by 15 to 8, and as they were to have the last challenge of the year, their form was watched with interest. Ross Brown, fresh from his triumph with the All Blacks in Australia, did not take the field. There were, however, other good backs. Famous Taranaki names in Bayly and Cameron appeared in the programme.

Taranaki

J. Bayly

E. Keith

D. Mathieson

L. Penn

J. McCullough

W. Cameron

R. Urbahn

P. Burke, R. Carroll, W. Orr, J. Mackie, J. Graham, J. McDonald, R. Boon, J. Flavell.

Neither team endeavoured to play anything other than orthodox football, and the match went to Taranaki because its forwards dominated the line-outs and set scrums. This was particularly so in the first half. The amber and blacks had more pace in the three-quarter line than Otago.

It was, nevertheless, a bright game played on a hard ground, in fine, hot weather and before a crowd of 9000. Two of Taranaki's tries came as a result of mistakes by the Shield holders, and on the run of the play were a ten-point better side.

In line-outs, Otago had no one to hold Burke, who thus had a feast of the ball in the early stages. Taranaki also won all the set scrums, taking five tight heads in the first half. Cotton in the second spell won the only tight head for his side.

The Otago inside backs, Hotop and Moody, were crowded by their opponents all day. The Otago defence came up fast on the Otago men, but at times the home pair, Cameron and McCullough, were caught on the wrong foot when the

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ball came out unexpectedly.

Here is a newspaper comment on the Taranaki potential: "The Taranaki back line, with Brown and O'Sullivan, a winger of pace to come in, should provide Otago with some real headaches in Dunedin. Both wings, Keith and Penn, turned on good games. Penn, a New Plymouth High School boy, scored a magnificent try after a 40 yards run, which left Clark and Darling standing."

Otago met Canterbury on the following Saturday at Lancaster Park. Someone wrote of their game that Canterbury were supposed to be a spent force, but in the second spell they ran through the Shield holders, playing devastating football, and proving once again, when they rose to it, that they are a very hard team to beat.

The Otago pack was practically the same which downed Wellington, the only absentee being Stevens. While they contained Wellington, and at times held the red and backs, there were times in the second spell when the Canterbury forwards burst them wide open, demonstrating that, apart from perhaps the Otago pack of 1946 and 1947, no pack since the inception of the three-fronted scrum could stand comparison with them.

The Otago backs were again much altered.

The three-quarters were Diack, Moody and Jowett. The five-eighths, Reeve and Prain, received close attention from Roberts, but the great speed of the Canterbury rearguard made cover defence easy.

The match was played on a flint-like ground in fine weather, and before a good-natured crowd of 18,000 people. In the first spell, Canterbury prevailed in the line-outs by 17 to 10, and in the second half, the figures were about even. The Canterbury pack were more expert in driving

through with short passing rushes which went some distance before being stopped.

This Dunedin account gives a good picture of the game: "The forwards, like the majority of the backs, failed in their tackling. The Canterbury forwards when they joined in passing rushes with their backs—which was frequently in the second half—were rarely put on the ground before they had been able to get under way.

"The Canterbury backs turned on a sparkling performance in the second half. They had great speed all along the line, and their passing and backing up were first class. It was the performance expected from players who had been together for the last three or four seasons. They were clever enough to retain possession, back one another up in fine fashion and just wait for one of the line to cut through.

"This was a match that Canterbury well deserved to win, but it was a match in which the scores could have been much closer, had many of the Canterbury attacking movements been nipped in the bud, as well they could have been.

"The reason for the bad tackling by the Otago team was not hard to detect. The speed at which the whole Canterbury team moved in the second spell was much greater than Otago has experienced against any other side this season."

If individuals are to be singled out, I would think special mention may be made of Darling, the Otago custodian, and Conway, the red-headed forward who played with extraordinary vitality. In the Canterbury forwards, Burry and Roberts moved and handled the ball with the celerity of backs, and enabled the reds to break through the centre time and again.

Canterbury won by 27 to 8, made up of five tries, three conversions, a penalty goal and a dropped goal to two tries, one converted.

SHIELD FEVER IN DUNEDIN

The returning tourists received a great welcome on bringing the Shield back home, and a large crowd greeted them. A procession formed up in the Octagon and moved off to the bus terminal. First, came a band comprised of the Dunedin Scottish Pipe Band and the Dunedin Highland Pipe Band, then a truck labelled "Otago's Rugby supporters," and in the second truck, "Saxton's extractions," a realistic dental team hard at work removing a replica of the Shield from a writhing figure dressed in Wellington colours.

Then there had to be a coffin, this time a black one, sprinkled with gorse and bearing the

words: "To Wellington, deepest sympathy in your recent bereavement, from Otago."

This, I fancy, may be a bad omen. I seem to remember Wellington bringing another coffin to take away the corpse, but the body showed unmistakable signs of life and the coffin was left for another occasion.

The next exhibit was the All Stars Brass Band, leading the marching teams from Mornington, Glencairn Junior, Grenadiers, Shamrock and Royal Stuart. Then came the Shield party in a Buick bearing slogans. The most appropriate was "Saxtons Surprisers" and there is no doubt, Charlie has worked a few surprises in his day.

The Mayor, Sir Leonard Wright, in a happy speech, welcomed the team as did Mr. D. A. Palmer, the president of the O.R.F.U.

Otago now faced the onslaught of some powerful contenders, but the defenders are usually able to muster up hidden reserves of strength to meet the challenge.

South Canterbury were Otago's first challengers. From early morning, streams of cars showing green and black colours made their way south. Men, women and children were included in the crowd of some six hundred crowding a special train which left Timaru at 7.40 a.m., reaching Dunedin at midday.

With colours flying, this happy crowd of enthusiasts made their way to Carisbrook, singing their special South Canterbury anthem, to the tune of "Hearts of Oak." At the park, there were the usual touches of levity provided by a number of clowns, one being the celebrated "Terrible McTago," supposed to represent the strength of Otago football.

Eleven thousand people saw the game, which was played on a hard ground and in brilliant sunshine. South Canterbury were unlucky. They had much the better of the first spell, and fielded a loose pack whose plan was to bustle the holders into making mistakes. This paid dividends.

The ball came freely to the home backs. But they were smartly upended by the urging green forwards, who made foray after foray into Otago territory, led by a grand forward in Coughlan, who, I understand, is a nephew of Tom Lynch.

Otago's forwards could not settle down against the drive and fire of the South Canterbury pack. But Charlie Saxton must have given them some straight talk at the interval for they set out to tighten up the game in the second spell. It was three-all at half-time.

Watson had kicked a fine dropped goal to put his side in the lead. Let me say here that there is a player who should have had higher honours. I have mentioned his great kicking powers before.

Territorially, the challengers had a big advantage and were unfortunate not to score when Fleming lost the ball when about to touch down.

Otago did penetrate into their opponents' territory only to be driven back by Watson, whose touch-finders were the longest seen on the ground for many a year.

Otago took a grip on the game in the second half and halted the South Canterbury pack. They were unfortunate to lose the brilliant Prain, and this meant moving Levien up to the first five-eighth position. This loss robbed Otago from gaining a clear-cut victory. As it was, they only scrambled home.

It was not, in the main, good football, but it was exciting, especially to the people from the north. Watson dropped his goal in the first five minutes, McIlroy equalised with a penalty two minutes before half-time. The same player put his side into the lead with a penalty, after 15 minutes of the second half.

South Canterbury made a come-back, and, with less than 20 minutes to go, Coughlan made a tremendous break through from the loose, only to see Stoddart brought back for a pass forward. Otago 6, South Canterbury 3.

There were many empty seats on the stands, and it was quite obvious that, as far as Shield fever was concerned, Otago had only a mild attack. Perhaps the string of defeats on the northern tour had led people to believe that the blues were not quite up to it. Charlie Saxton may well have been right when he mentioned that influenza had much to do with the side's performance.

There were several changes in the Otago team from that which had defeated Wellington. Moody and McIlroy came into the three-quarter line in place of Clark and Grant, and in the forwards Buxton and Stevens were replaced by Johnson and Keegan.

South Canterbury

J. Cole	M. D. Watson	J. Ellery
J. O'Donnell	R. Stoddart	G. K. Taylor
	B. Fleming	
D. Hooke, D. Kennedy, T. D. Coughlan, I. D. Proudfoot, M. Scott, J. Senior, M. Casey, K. McCrossan		

TARANAKI TAKES THE SHIELD

There were many who thought that after their impressive showing against Otago on the 11th September, Taranaki would be hard to head off in the Shield game, especially with Brown and O'Sullivan coming into the side.

It is surprising how little interest was evinced in the second encounter between these teams. Dunedin folk had evidently made up their minds

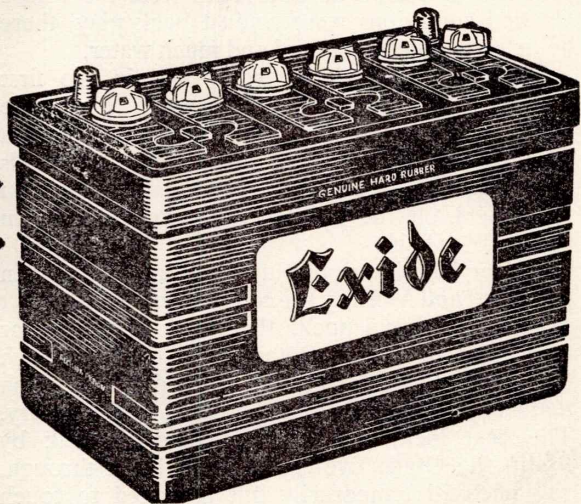
that the Shield would not be held, for, as the sides were taking the field, the big stand at Carisbrook was only half full, and a small crowd of 7500 turned up to watch proceedings. It would now appear that the holders struck a wave of exceptional form when they defeated Wellington for the Shield.

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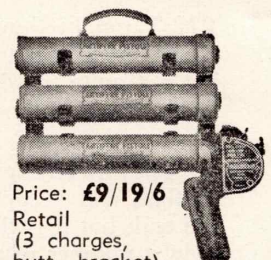
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AF

from the previous game. Cameron and McCullough were the five-eighths, Brown came in at centre, and O'Sullivan and Keith were the wings. Ground conditions were against back play, there being great patches of mud and much water.

Otago began with a rush, and in the first minute McIlroy kicked a penalty goal. They were going great guns in the early stages and looked a very refreshed and solid side. Their forwards were right on their game, shoving the Taranaki pack right off the ball and pinning them down to their own half.

After 15 minutes of play, Taranaki were again penalised and McIlroy raised the flags again.

In the second spell, there was a great roar from the crowd as the Otago pack broke through the Taranaki defence in a great dribbling rush that penetrated deep into the defenders' territory. The next incident was a spectacular break by Prain, the Otago five-eighth, who burst through, was checked temporarily but managed to touch down.

Otago were nine points up when Taranaki opened their account with an opportunist try. The ball was kicked behind Darling, the Otago full-back, who mishandled on the wet surface and Ross Brown, coming up fast, fell on the ball. Bayly converted.

Shortly afterwards Carroll, the Taranaki forward, whose play had been outstanding, scored in a handy position. Bayly failed to improve.

Taranaki were now applying the pressure, and the Otago backs were, quite surprisingly, making mistakes. The visitors' backs came away with a fine orthodox passing movement from half-way, which was topped off by O'Sullivan scoring in the corner with a try which was not converted. Taranaki 11, Otago 9.

In the last several minutes, Otago could do nothing with the fighting spirit of the Taranaki men, and shortly afterwards, the whistle sounded with Taranaki the new Shield holders—after forty-four years. A very well deserved victory.

Taranaki

J. Bayly

T. O'Sullivan

Ross Brown

E. Keith

J. McCullough

W. Cameron

R. Urbahn

P. Burke, R. Carroll, B. O'Neill, W. Orr, J. McDonald, A. Mackie, J. Flavell, J. Graham.

If only a few Taranaki supporters were on hand in Dunedin to see their men take the Shield, at home there was a remarkable gathering to welcome the returning champions.

Bell Block Airport is some seven miles from New Plymouth and, along this route, a great crowd gave the team a resounding welcome. The specially chartered plane bringing the team landed about 3.10 p.m. on the Sunday. From noon onwards, hundreds of cars bore down on the airport from all parts of the province.

The crowd took charge of the airport and smashed down fences, opened private gates and overran the whole of the runways. Everything was out of hand, and the traffic officers and police were powerless.

Then there was no stopping the crowd when the team carrying the Shield arrived. Before the plane had stopped, they broke clear and surrounded the aircraft. All was confusion, for the crowd packed right against the plane and refused to move.

The team members solved the problem by jumping, and had a big job ahead of them to barge through the packed crowd to their bus. This took all of 15 minutes.

At New Plymouth, P. Burke, the Taranaki captain, officially handed over the Shield to the president of the Taranaki Rugby Union. The tremendous welcome to the team was in striking contrast to the indifference of the Taranaki Rugby public over the years. Time and again only a handful have travelled with their provincial team when they were challenging for the Shield. Sometimes not enough support was forthcoming to enable a plane to be chartered.

Now all was changed, and Taranaki had the world at their feet. Public support is an essential part of the defence of the Shield, and this is nowhere so obvious as in Christchurch, where an army of supporters believe it a heresy to harbour a doubt as to their team's chances of victory.

TARANAKI'S FABULOUS YEAR

IN Taranaki they said it was a fabulous year. I think that is true as to the size of their gates, but not quite the description that could truthfully be given to the standard of their play.

They were a good side which showed robust football and a capacity to come from behind at the end; but it is doubtful if they were any better than a number of teams which showed improved form in the representative season. It would be

difficult, for instance, to place them ahead of Southland, Auckland, Waikato and Canterbury. But it may be said of them that they did exceedingly well in their first Shield season.

As with all successful Shield teams, they were able to keep their side more or less intact, only 24 players being used in the 15 games.

The first game was the usual early season fixture played on June 2nd against Wanganui at Wanganui.



W. J. Whineray (right), captain of the Auckland team, and T. R. Lineen holding the Ranfurly Shield when the team arrived back at Whenuapai with the spoils of victory. Over 2,000 enthusiastic supporters were on hand to give them a rousing welcome.



The Auckland captain, W. J. Whineray, holding aloft the Ranfurly Shield, won by Auckland team at the end of last season.

Taranaki

J. L. Bayly
 P. L. Penn T. P. O'Sullivan E. J. Keith
 J. F. McCullough R. H. Brown
 K. C. Briscoe
 B. W. Duffy, J. R. Carroll, W. J. Orr, P. S.
 Burke, B. J. O'Neill, A. J. Machie, J. Graham,
 I. C. Flavell.

The story of this game was that the tricky Taranaki back line dominated play. Territorially there was nothing like a 23-point difference in the teams, but Taranaki only needed half a chance to swing into attack. Bayly, the Taranaki full-back, converted only one of the seven tries, but under the circumstances, his kicking for goal was good. The Amber and Black 18-year-old flier, L. Penn, who, a year before, was a high school boy, scored three tries as the outcome of sheer speed. He is a most promising three-quarter. Taranaki 23, Wanganui nil.

There was only one change from the side which played Wanganui and that which faced Auckland on June 21st, I. H. McDonald took the place of A. J. Mackie.

Auckland

T. J. Riley
 J. Sibun R. F. McMullen, D. McKay
 T. R. Lineen A. Clarke
 R. Doidge
 M. Goodwin, B. A. Nepia, R. Blockley, I. Sapich,
 J. B. Buxton, G. C. Perry, D. S. Webb, J. B. S.
 Hutchinson.

This match was in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Auckland Rugby Union, and it was the dazzling kind of Rugby that the Auckland football public loves. A large crowd was entertained by bright and exciting football.

Taranaki led by 12 to 8 at half-time, and soon after the break by 15 to 8, but Auckland dominated the closing stages. Auckland had a young new inside back combination in R. Doidge, half-back, and Adrian Clarke at first "five."

Clarke played an outstanding game. His tricky running brought two tries, and gave the Auckland backs a marked superiority. For his display in this game, Clarke found his way into the New Zealand team for the third test against Australia, but he played to instructions and was not the Clarke of the Taranaki game.

The forwards were fairly even with Auckland carrying most of the line-outs. The Taranaki pack were somewhat footloose and undisciplined and gave away many penalties. Brown and Penn performed creditably in the rearguard, but the backs as a whole did not settle down to full efficiency.

Briscoe at half had trouble with his passes and McCullough at "second" drifted across field too much. Bayly was good with the left foot

but not so competent with the right under pressure.

Auckland won by 24 to 21. Tries were scored by McKay, Lineen and Clarke. Sibun converted one and Riley two and kicked three penalty goals. Taranaki's score was made up of three tries by Flavell, Keith and Briscoe. Bayly kicked three penalties and Brown dropped a goal.

One of the wisest things done by the Taranaki Rugby authorities was to stage a short, sharp tour of the mainland where, after all, the characteristic rugged close-under Rugby is still played. The team flew to Invercargill after the Auckland game and there, by intensive match practice before the fixture, ironed out many of the faults apparent in the Auckland match.

There were some new faces in the Taranaki back line. Urbahn was half, and behind him were W. J. Cameron and J. F. McCullough. The three-quarters line was L. R. Hawkes, R. H. Brown and T. P. O'Sullivan. D. Clark and R. J. Brown were newcomers in the pack. Clark was replaced by J. Graham at half-time and Penn took Brown's place.

Southland's centre backs were A. J. Tait, W. R. Archer, R. Bews and G. McKenzie.

Taranaki used its weight to great advantage in the forwards and exerted almost complete domination in scrummages and line-outs. The pack kept close together and gave a classic demonstration of good rucking.

It takes a pretty good side to defeat the southerners in Rugby Park by 14 to 3, but the Shield holders were all over them. Perhaps it was a little early for Southland to show its paces for, later in the season, they had a magnificent win over Australia, scoring 26 points. That good judge, Norman McKenzie, thought they were the best provincial side of 1958.

The Taranaki team was further changed about again Otago, O'Sullivan, J. C. McClenaghan and Penn were the three-quarters, but the insides were the same as were fielded against Southland. In the forwards, F. C. Wilson was a new face.

The Otago insides were A. Stevens, E. Edwards and H. Prain, and the three-quarters E. Diack, D. Grant and I. Bassett.

The Taranaki forwards with hard rucking and possessing plenty of cohesion, were extremely mobile. Often the Otago pack was unable to offer any counter as the visitors came storming through. In the second spell the Taranaki forwards penned the home team in its own territory for long periods. Burke was outstanding in the line-outs and gave Urbahn, the half, excellent service.

Burke, I think, made the Taranaki team, and I do not think they would have kept the Shield but for him. How he was left out of the 1953 All Blacks is still a mystery. At times, play

between the forwards was fiery, and several times the referee had words with both captains.

The Otago pack, as a whole, lacked the strength and cohesion shown by Taranaki. Solid, rather than spectacular, the Taranaki backs were the better combination. Given good service by Urbahn, the first "five," Cameron, played a fine game and McClenaghan showed up well. Taranaki 16, Otago 3.

In the Canterbury game played at Christchurch on Saturday, July 2nd, the tourists had two changes from the team which played Otago. Keith took O'Sullivan's place on the wing, and the latter moved into centre. The forwards were the same pack which took the field against Otago, but after 15 minutes Graham displaced Wilson. Briscoe went in at half instead of Urbahn.

The Canterbury centre backs were Molloy, Sykes, Elsom and C. McDonald. For some unaccountable reason the selectors dropped Henderson and failed to recognise the worth of the University five-eighth, Hoskin, who, I suggest, has the greatest potential of any first "five," produced under the three-pointed scrum. He had to wait till the Wellington game to prove his worth. Canterbury won by 9 to 6 in a game which has been the subject of much controversy.

"For the most part of the match, Taranaki looked the better side, and it was perhaps unlucky to lose. Canterbury's second try, two minutes from time, was scored in peculiar circumstances, and Taranaki was unfortunate in several instances. On the other hand, Canterbury might have won by more had its goal kicking been good.

"The home team, too, missed tries by the smallest of margins. But a game in which there were 117 line-outs, in which the ball went

through the Taranaki back line only once, and in which Canterbury did not have a passing move which went further than the second 'five,' could hardly be saved from mediocrity by the fiercest forward struggle. It was most certainly a fierce one, and frequently players seemed much less interested in the ball than in the prospect of an opponent. There was a good deal of kicking in the rucks and blows were exchanged." This is a contemporary account!

It was a pretty tough show and no doubt Taranaki learnt the "know-how" which enabled it to cope with Northland. I heard one Taranaki lad exclaim, "Why, we are just babes in the wood compared with Canterbury. They went to work on us and it was like being in a mincing machine!"

I have not the slightest doubt that the man from the Cow Province gave a Roland for the red Oliver.

It was a monotonous pattern. Line-out followed line-out. Back movements were strangled at birth. Newspaper comment in summing up was: "Taranaki, holder of the Ranfurly Shield, is a team of considerable potential, but in the absence of Brown it seemed that Taranaki considered that all-out attack was a poor risk!"

There was a great outcry after this game and the columns of the newspapers were full of the outpourings of infuriated correspondents.

This game showed the deficiencies of the new scrum rules at their worst. There is an urgent call for a measure of uncertainty in the hooking of the ball. Rugby is a fluid game and the abortion known as the "tight head" is a running sore on the face of the game. There are too many breaches of the scrum rule and players quite inadvertently make mistakes which are fatal when you are penalised under your own posts.

A STALKING HORSE FOR TARANAKI

Taranaki kicked off the challenge series against the men from Golden Bay. It was only a pipe-opener.

Taranaki were without the services of R. H. Brown and K. C. Briscoe, who were away in Auckland playing against the Maoris.

The Taranaki forwards showed much cleverness in feeding the half. Burke, Orr and Mackie had a chain system in the line-outs. One of them got the leather and it was quickly passed to Urbahn.

The story of the match is soon told. Five minutes from the start a cross-kick was taken on the bounce by O'Sullivan, who crossed near the posts. From then on it was a procession and the Taranaki bag was 12 tries. Taranaki 56,

Golden Bay-Motueka 8.

Taranaki

J. Bayly

L. Penn

T. O'Sullivan

E. Keith

J. McCullough

W. Cameron

R. Urbahn

P. Burke, B. O'Neill, W. Orr, A. J. Mackie, R. Carroll, I. MacDonald, R. Boon, I. Flavell.

The second challenge came from Mid-Canterbury, who played a negative type of Rugby, being more intent on spoiling than on opening up play.

There was only one change from the previous side, Brown taking the place of Cameron. The presence of the former pepped up the attack. He made several penetrating runs which carved up the defence. Briscoe was back at half.

In the main, it was an uninteresting game on a wet ground. There was little doubt, after the game got under way, that Taranaki would not lose the Shield though Mid-Canterbury adopted destructive tactics which were effective in the poor conditions.

A light, driving rain made open play difficult although the Taranaki backs sometimes looked dangerous. Briscoe came through a heavy day's work well and Keith and Bayly were the most impressive of the other backs.

Burke, Flavell and Carroll spearheaded the Taranaki attack. There was some criticism that the Taranaki forwards played somewhat loosely and without spirit. The referee, Mr. C. R. Gillies, did not favour the new line-out technique and this may have put them out of their stride.

In the end the holders prevailed easily. In the first half Brown scored and Bayly kicked a penalty goal. In the second session Burke scored and Brown kicked a field goal. Bayly converted both tries, making the total 16 for Taranaki. The challengers did not score.

Mid-Canterbury

T. R. Gallagher

R. E. Callaghan S. W. Goodwin A. H. Smith
E. M. Flaherty G. Wattereus

P. N. Roulston

B. W. Dwyer, L. H. Gallagher, T. Taylor, F. Sugrue, R. Fraser, M. P. Hanson, R. T. Dawson, R. M. Doig.

The third challenge, that from King Country, saw the holders get a close call. There were quite a few changes in the Taranaki back line. Urbahn was in instead of Briscoe, Cameron replaced Brown, who went to centre, and O'Sullivan was in on the right wing instead of Penn.

Taranaki retained the Shield but it was not till 20 minutes of a disappointing match that the holders' forwards established a slender measure of supremacy.

King Country led by 11 to 9 at half-time and retained the lead until midway through the second half. By this time the Taranaki forwards had got on top and were on attack almost continuously.

King Country laid all its trust in its forwards. It made no use whatever of its backs, who, on attack, confined their activities to upsetting the Taranaki back line. The challengers adopted the wrong tactics, which was close-order warfare with their one-time back P. Meredith as a fast tackling No. 8 to break up Taranaki back attacks.

Taranaki, too, neglected its backs and the result was a grim match completely out of keeping with the brilliantly fine conditions.

The game was marred by many infringements and had Bayly been kicking well Taranaki would have won easily. He had ten attempts and suc-

ceeded with only one. C. E. Meads led the King Country forwards.

Taranaki can thank Burke and the half Urbahn for the retention of the Shield—particularly Peter Burke.

Scorers for Taranaki were Keith and McCullough, who each scored a try, and Cameron and Bayly. The former kicked two penalty goals and the latter one. Wilkinson scored a try for King Country which Katene converted. The latter also kicked two penalty goals. Taranaki 15, King Country 11.

King Country

W. Coffin

T. Katene M. Wilkinson J. Carr
E. Faire R. Dempster

L. Cumpstone

P. Meredith, H. Paraka, C. E. Meads, S. Meads, C. Sanson, N. McKinley, W. Wordley, M. Derby.

This was a close call and so was the next challenge from Manawatu. It was even closer.

There was a reshuffle in the Taranaki back line. Brown took Cameron's place at first "five" and Penn and McLenaghin came into the three-quarters instead of Keith and Brown. The forwards were unchanged.

From the start, Manawatu attacked and started in on the Taranaki inside backs. They harried Taranaki all along the line.

Half-time found the score 3-all, and there was nothing much to admire in the holders' display. There was plenty of fisticuffs.

On the wing for Manawatu the 1953 All Black, W. S. Freebairn, scored a try which put the challengers only one point behind with a minute or so to go. It was a game full of movement yet disappointing. As with most challengers, Manawatu rose to the occasion and played grand football until their form petered out.

A slender lead could easily have been increased had any of Bayly's fine attempts from penalties gone over, instead of just missing.

Manawatu had two accomplished players behind the scrum. They were J. and D. Wood at half and five "five" respectively. B. A. Allen at full-back turned on a fine display. Bayly, his opposite number, had a poor day and Brown was distinctly "off." The wings Penn and O'Sullivan saw very little of the ball.

Taranaki's forward mastery was not achieved in this game until late in the day and it may be said that the game was unnecessarily rough and that the referee, Mr. A. Watson, could easily have taken stronger action than merely warning players, as he did repeatedly.

The closing stages put a great strain on the onlookers. Midway through the second spell Taranaki had gradually applied the pressure but an incident occurred which altered the whole face of the game. A penalty was awarded to

Taranaki about 10 yards out from the Manawatu line, and one of the challengers lay injured on the ground with some members of his side grouped round him. Flavell made use of the diversion with a short kick gathered in by Boon, who scored before Manawatu woke up.

This incident stung Manawatu to life. They jumped into the play and next, as has been mentioned, Freebairn shot under the Taranaki posts to score. For three extra minutes of time the challengers made an all-out bid for victory. The other Manawatu score was made by B. E. Findlay, an erstwhile back playing in the forwards. Allen converted Freebairn's try. Penn and Boon scored for the holders and Brown added a dropped goal. It was a very close thing indeed for the defenders.

Manawatu

B. A. Allen
W. S. Freebairn M. Ball W. A. Wing
W. Nairne D. Wood
J. Wood
A. Bryant, B. E. Finlay, M. Sims, W. Hearn,
K. Tremain, B. K. Jones, L. T. Richardson, A. Barker.

The fifth challenge on the 23rd August came from Wanganui. Bavly was back at full-back. Penn, Keith and O'Sullivan were a genuinely delightful three-quarter trio. Inside was the solid McCullough and then came the shrewd, almost faultless, combination of Urbahn and Cameron.

Magnificently led by P. S. Burke, the Taranaki forwards were clearly superior in the second half, after a solid display in the first, and this fiery dashing eight fed a speedy, reliable back line at every opportunity.

Taranaki were down 5-9 at half-time after playing into a stiff wind, but in the second half the holders' pack got on top and gave the backs a plentiful supply of the ball. They revealed more ability than they had done for some time.

They were too fast for Wanganui, linked up well with the forwards to break close to the scrum and out-manoeuvred Wanganui at almost every turn. Burke was responsible for a large part of the supremacy won by his forwards.

Penn, Keith, Flavell and O'Sullivan scored tries. Cameron kicked a conversion and a penalty goal, Bavly a conversion and O'Sullivan a field goal. For Wanganui, Watt kicked two penalty goals and Lett a field goal. Taranaki 22, Wanganui 9.

Wanganui

T. G. Spencer
J. C. O'Leary L. J. Lett S. C. Crowley
B. A. Watt I. W. B. Lockett
G. L. Jones
B. W. Eriksen, N. P. Potaka, J. M. Karatau,
P. N. Irvine, R. D. Horton, W. J. Fitchett, T. L. Stent, L. P. Penn.

Horton was replaced by R. D. Green early in the second half.

CHARLES BLUNT'S AUSTRALIANS

Charles Blunt's Australians confounded the critics by beating the Shield holders. They were unlucky not to have won by a larger margin.

The play of the local forwards was in shocking contrast with the form displayed earlier against Southland, Otago, Canterbury and the King Country. The absence of four regular members robbed the pack of its thrust. They could not match the Australian forwards for speed, nor exert enough dominance to tighten up the play. As a result the Taranaki back division was always handicapped and for the last ten minutes played with a man short, when Briscoe left the field.

The main factor in the Australian victory was speed with the ball. The backs ran crisply, while the forwards backed up admirably and were invariably first on to the ball.

Although outweighed by the Taranaki pack, the Australians more than held their own in open play and were also ahead by a slight margin in scrums and line-outs. Rugby Park was a quagmire the day before the match but dried out to

a good playing surface. The Australians handled the going much better than the home men.

They opened their scoring in the first five minutes. The movement from which this try came was the first of many in which the ball went through the entire chain. Stapleton, playing in his second game, dived over for a grand try. The stars of the game were Connor and Summons, who, with their quick breaks, were a very thrusting combination.

Briscoe, at half for Taranaki, was not able to show his full ability; but despite this Brown made some good thrusts. Curley, at full-back for the visitors, drove the Taranaki forwards back with his great line-finders. He quite overshadowed his opposite number, Cameron, who had an unfortunate day.

In the Wallaby forwards "Chilla" Wilson and Bluey Ellis were always in the front of the attack and Carroll was outstanding in loose rushes.

Burke tried to infuse some life into his men. He played his usual great game.

Besides Stapleton's try, Ellis scored twice and Summons a dropped goal. Australia 12, Taranaki 0.

Australia

T. Carley

E. Stapleton, T. Baxter, A. Morton, E. Elwood
A. Summons D. Connor
K. Ryan, D. Lowth, J. Carroll, J. White, C.
Wilson, P. Dunn, R. Meadows, K. Ellis.

Taranaki

W. J. Cameron

P. L. Penn, T. P. O'Sullivan, L. R. Hawkes
J. F. McCullough R. H. Brown
K. C. Briscoe
P. S. Burke, F. E. Wilson, W. J. Orr, D. Clarke,
B. Duffy, I. H. MacDonald, J. Graham, I. C.
Flavell.

Following on the defeat by Australia, the game against Wellington showed that the holders were far from being the world-beaters that so many of their supporters thought they were.

There were only two changes in the team from that which played Wanganui. Brown went in at five-eighth in place of Cameron, who went to full-back.

A hard and action-packed game against the heavy Wellington forwards saw the Taranaki pack play one of its best games. They were clearly outweighed but played probably their finest Rugby of the season. They were tigerishly faster in the loose and, though they could not master Wellington in the tight, they never conceded an inch. They won the line-outs by 20 to 15 and their hooker Boon won four scrums on the tight head against Sage, while conceding one on the loose head.

It was not a day for fast, spectacular back play but the Taranaki backs impressed with their shrewd awareness of the needs of the moment. In spite of the conditions—a very heavy muddy ground that put a premium on safe handling and ruled out any fancy footwork—both back lines continued to play their full part. The challengers' backs were not as efficient all round as the Taranaki rearguard but made several dangerous thrusts.

However, the game was won and lost in the forwards. The Taranaki pack, superbly led by Burke, was quicker on to the loose ball and harried the Wellington half, Henderson, without respite.

Play was astonishingly fast. It whirled from one end to the other in a manner that raised the crowd to a frenzy of excitement.

Taranaki went into the attack from the kick-off and missed two tries narrowly. Wellington scored first. Frederickson, accepting a weak clearing kick, gave the ball to Puketapu. He kicked behind the Taranaki backs and Caulton won the race for the ball. Watt failed to im-

prove. Six minutes later Frederickson kicked a comparatively easy penalty.

Ten minutes before half-time, from a line-out on the Wellington line, Flavell scored. O'Sullivan scored right on time making the tally 6-all.

Wellington

J. D. Taitoko

J. R. Watt W. S. Fleming R. W. Caulton
I. P. Puketapu B. T. Frederickson
C. G. Henderson
I. N. MacEwan, D. N. McIntosh, R. N. Horsley,
D. G. Harker, F. J. Thompson, J. H. Williams,
J. K. Sage, I. M. Vodanovich.

The seventh challenge came from Waikato, who came along after two fine victories in the South against Otago and Canterbury. After the Shield game they continued their show of good form by beating Wanganui comfortably and drawing with the Australians 14-all.

It was a surprising victory for the holders, who rose to great heights. There were two changes in the backs. Brown's place in the five-eighths was taken by Cameron. Bayly came in again as full-back.

Taranaki could have won by another 10 points without being flattered. The sum of £5050 was taken at the gate and 32,000 was the record crowd. Conditions could scarcely have been better. The ground was firm and there was little or no wind.

The Waikato forwards were much slower to the ball. They were outweighed and in the backs they were outpaced. In the fifteenth minute Carroll crashed over from a line-out for a try. Bayly's kick just missed the uprights.

The second try came after 23 minutes. Urbahn split the defence wide open near half-way and broke into the open. At exactly the right moment he swung a long pass to the fleet Penn. He took it in full stride and outpaced Carrington and Fairweather to score wide out. Bayly failed to improve.

Taranaki were over again five minutes later. Urbahn got the ball from a loose ruck after a line-out and whipped it straight to Cameron, who beat Dallas. He passed to O'Sullivan, to Keith, who touched down—no conversion.

Waikato began the second half with a little more fire; but it was Taranaki who scored. Mackie's attempt at conversion hit the crossbar but he made no mistake with a penalty a few minutes later. Waikato's points came 15 minutes before the end when Thurston scored an unconverted try. Taranaki 15, Waikato 3.

Waikato

H. J. Fairweather

M. J. McDonald M. H. Raureti G. Carrington
B. A. Cowley R. A. Dallas
L. M. O'Connor
T. W. Johnson, A. Hayes, B. W. Thurston, R. M.
Loveridge, W. G. Kay, G. D. Witters, P. T.
Hogan, M. H. Davis.

NO PUNCHES WERE PULLED

Three points down at half-time, Taranaki beat North Auckland by 12 to 3. A large crowd of 21,500 saw a rough, tough game marred by over-much brawling in the forwards and a great many late tackles.

After Urbahn had made his usual break, Northland settled down and took charge. Peter Jones was like a will-o'-the-wisp—now in the forwards, now in the backs and being trailed by a bevy of amber-and-black attendants.

Northland pressed until Bennett barged over for a blind-side try. Later McDonald was injured and replaced by B. Darnlay. Still later O'Sullivan was injured in a tackle and his place was taken by Penn, who scored a great try seven minutes after the start of the second half. This was the turning point of the game.

Taranaki slowly got a grip on the game and finished much more strongly than their opponents.

For the first time in the season Taranaki was thoroughly beaten for the ball in the line-outs and scrums. However, North Auckland did not know what to do with the ball. Mistakes did occur and Taranaki were not slow to take advantage of them.

Besides Penn's try, Keith and Brown scored tries, Cameron kicked a penalty goal and Darnlay converted Brown's try. Bennett scored for North Auckland. The Taranaki fifteen was the same as that which lined out against King Country.

By any standard it was a pretty dirty match. The most unbiased would say that both sides were responsible.

Northland

M. Walters

N. Erceg T. Ngawhatu B. Beazley

E. J. Thompson A. J. Bennett

L. J. Townsend

N. Weck, P. J. Jones, L. Russell, E. B. Dean,
T. Ross, M. Marinkovich, C. J. Paul, L. Dean.

Counties came next—the ninth challenge. It was a disappointing and scrappy game and fell far short of expectations. Taranaki were penalised twenty times to Counties' ten. It was the poorest game of the Shield series and the holders showed obvious signs of their long and arduous season. They were tired and jaded.

Counties had a 5-3 lead at half-time and held it until midway through the second spell. Once again it was O'Sullivan who took the spotlight. It was his try which clinched the Shield for Taranaki in the Otago game and here he was in the last Shield game scoring the decisive try.

Taranaki dominated possession in all phases. It won the line-outs by a substantial margin and Boon, its hooker, took five scrums in the tight

head. The ground was in excellent order. Not once did the ball go along the Counties' back line and only once through Taranaki's.

O'Sullivan scored twice. Cameron kicked a goal and Mackie gained a conversion. For Counties, Mitchell scored for Whatarau to convert. Taranaki 11, Counties 5.

The Taranaki side was the same as played against Waikato.

Counties

F. Fruin

R. R. Cossey P. Raymond B. V. Scown

M. Cossey E. H. Whatarau

C. Mitchie

K. E. Barry, B. Knight, J. Kennedy, S. Ewe,
R. Brewer, I. Rasmussen, O. Perry, R. Wood.

In a friendly match played at Wellington on September 26th, Taranaki threw off the lethargy it had shown in its recent games and went properly to town. This match had more tension and excitement in it than any rep. match seen at Athletic Park for many a year.

Both sides scored their points with the benefit of a howling nor'-wester. Wellington in the first spell and Taranaki in the second.

From the kick off the two fine packs were locked in a titanic struggle and there were pretty raw-tempered exchanges. There were many back movements, some fine handling in the difficult conditions and some high-class running and deception.

There was tremendous interest in the appearance at full-back for Wellington of the young University full-back, M. Williment, aged 18, who was making his debut in big Rugby. He made an auspicious start and added 11 points to the Wellington score.

Another find for Wellington was W. D. Roberts at first "five" and the side row man, P. R. Lalby, who was a fiery one. Harker, the big lock, was outstanding.

Cameron was Taranaki's best back. Penn and Brown performed creditably. The scoring was remarkable. For Wellington in the first spell McGibbon, Roberts, Caulton and Sage scored tries, all of which were converted by Williment, who also kicked a penalty. At half-time the scoreboard read: Wellington 23, Taranaki 0.

It was real whirlwind football and the commentators at half-time couldn't be blamed when they said that this display made Wellington tops for all New Zealand. They spoke too soon.

In the second spell Taranaki sprang to life in startling fashion, despite having had to face the head wind in the first half. They gave a dazzling display of passing and running. Tries were scored by Penn, Brown and Carroll (2), all

of which were converted by Bayly. Wellington 23, Taranaki 20.

By this display Taranaki, more than in any other game, showed they have the capacity to rise to greatness.

A word or two on the mundane matter of money. The Shield was a great money spinner for the Taranaki Rugby Union and their aggregate of £27,884 must be an all-time Ranfurly Shield "high."

The average gate for the nine games was approximately £3100 with an average attendance of 19,112. This is not quite as good as the Canterbury figures for the year 1955, in which seven Shield games were played when the average attendance was 25,555. The figures for 1954 were £2724 and 21,833 respectively. This was for nine games.

The statistics table shows that Hawke's Bay, though unsuccessful in its quest for the Shield since the war, still has the best percentage of wins, the quite remarkable figure of 72.5 per cent. and this is the result of that truly phenomenal run of victories, 25 in number, from 1922 to 1926.

All the same, we must not lose sight of the marathon performance put up by Auckland, who held the Shield from 1905 till 1913, winning 24

games. I think it is fair to say that few unions, with the possible exception of Canterbury, have had so many near misses. In 1920 they scored 20 points to Wellington's 23, in 1929, 14 to Wairarapa's 17, in 1935, 13 to Canterbury's 16.

The scoring figures, for and against, of the provinces which won over 60 per cent. of their games—Hawke's Bay, Canterbury, Waikato, Otago and Wellington—are most illuminating.

Hawke's Bay averaged the remarkable figure of 22.1 in its 40 games, with 13.5 points against.

Canterbury, with easily the greatest number of Shield appearances—sixty-eight—averaged 14.2 points for and 13.9 against. Waikato, a comparative newcomer, has figures of 12.3 and 11.4 respectively.

Otago played 55 games with an average score of 14.6 points. The phenomenal defence of the wearers of the dark blue is reflected in the points against—the very low average of 7.6 points.

Wellington, a most consistent performer over the years, has figures of 14.2 points and 10.0 respectively. And, when we are on the subject of statistics, we cannot overlook the record of the Auckland teams from 1905 till 1913. Their average in the 24 games was 16.3 points for and 4.2 points against—incredible figures.

TARANAKI STARTED ITS SECOND YEAR WITH QUIET CONFIDENCE

The first challenge in 1959 came from Nelson, whose only other challenge for the Shield was in 1924 against Hawke's Bay. This was a game played on a heavy ground at McLean Park, Napier. Conditions could not have been worse and only 1500 people braved the elements. From the outset the holders dominated play and under the conditions prevailing, the Bay played splendidly, taking and handling the ball cleanly.

The holders put up 35 points and their opponents 3. For Hawke's Bay, Albert Falwasser was right on the ball, scoring four tries. Blake (2), Hingston and Hebblerly were the other try getters. Yates kicked two penalties and Miller one. His score for Nelson is lost in the mist of time.

The Nelson team in 1959 against Taranaki:—

	J. Delaney	
L. Ross	T. Newman	I. Guy
P. Burke	N. Dayman	
	P. Marshall	
D. Exton, R. Curnow, A. Bond, M. Pugh, P. Egan, T. Philipps, N. Barton.		

Thirty two thousand people saw the game. It took Taranaki up to 12 minutes in the second spell to overcome the solid Nelson pack and its spoiling tactics to establish a lead. Thereafter there was only one team in it, Taranaki scoring several scintillating back tries, having complete control in all departments.

Nevertheless the victory was not entirely convincing. Taranaki lacked much of the fire which distinguished its play the previous season. McCullough was first class and Urbahn and Cameron teamed up well.

The best of the Taranaki forwards was Mackie, but on the whole, the pack lacked vim in the first spell. For the holders, McCullough, Flavell, O'Sullivan and Cameron scored. Bayly and Cameron converted one each. The latter kicked four penalty goals and Bayly one. Delaney and Burke scored for Nelson. Delaney converted one and landed two penalty goals. TARANAKI 31, NELSON 14.

Wanganui were next in the field against the holders.

Now, Wanganui has had considerable success against Taranaki since 1946. It will be a surprise to many that the challengers since the war had defeated Taranaki ten times and drew once. In one particular season they defeated both Canterbury and Auckland. One paper came out with the caption:—"The Ranfurly Shield rocked a little on its Taranaki Pedestal."

Wanganui

S. G. Crawshaw

B. J. Boswell T. G. Spencer S. C. Crowley

I. W. Lockett P. T. Andrew

B. D. Upston

T. R. Stent, R. D. Horton, B. W. Erickson, R.

Hurn, J. N. Staines, W. T. Rewiti, J. H. Karatau,

P. N. Irvine.

Taranaki

J. Bayly

T. P. O'Sullivan R. H. Brown E. J. Keith

J. F. McCullough W. J. Cameron

R. J. Urbahn

P. S. Burke, W. R. Coles, A. J. Mackie, Roy

Carroll, Ralph Carroll, I. C. Flavell, R. J. Boon, I. H. McDonald.

This was not one of Taranaki's good days. There were some moments of bright play at the beginning of each half, but generally they failed to reach the heights. The crowd of 19,500 were disappointed when their team failed to turn on the fireworks. It was Wanganui who called the tune. Their lively pack, of whom Staines, Horton and Stent stood out, were not held by Taranaki. The holders probably deserved to retain the Shield, but they did not display form in keeping with a team of Shield prestige. Their back line never really got going.

Taranaki led by 6 to 3 at half time, and the scores were even at 11 all. Eighteen minutes before the end, Cameron kicked three penalty goals and converted a try by Brown. Bayly kicked the other penalty. Lockett and Rawiti scored for Wanganui and Boswell converted one and kicked a penalty goal. The men of the Cow Province did not look the goods that day.

LIKE LAMBS AGAINST THE LIONS

Taranaki have had a surprising record against overseas teams. In 1888 they defeated Stoddart's team by one to nil, although on the return game at Hawera they went down by seven to one. In 1894, when the Province was at its best, in the days of the Baylys, the Goods, Lambie and Hughes, they defeated New South Wales by 21 to 6. They were renowned for their physique. They were unbeaten in 1894 defeating Wellington 6-0 and Canterbury 17 to 3, at Christchurch. They were undefeated in 1895 and 1896 and two of their best performances were a draw with Auckland in the former year and a win over Otago in the latter.

Against the Anglo-Welsh in 1908, Dive scored the famous try which brought victory to Taranaki by 5 to nil. Another great day for Taranaki was the 16th July 1921 when they drew with the 1921 Springboks, neither side scoring. This great side was probably the most powerful that ever came this way, for they met New Zealand when we were very strong. They were only defeated twice—by Canterbury when they went down by 6 to 4, and by New Zealand in the first Test.

Taranaki's luck still held in 1931, with a narrow win over the Australians by 11 to 10. Hope was expressed that the Lions would go the way of others but it was not to be. The match was played in fine weather and on a firm ground. It was hard fought and was a thrilling entertainment. Thirty five thousand people paid £9000 for admission.

Neither side gave any quarter nor asked for any, but apart from one or two incidents, the game was free from any suggestion of dirty play. At half time the score was 3 all, each side having kicked a penalty goal, and until Scotland kicked a magnificent drop kick 15 minutes before time, it looked as if the Shield holders would be the first North Island team to topple the Lions. After that, Taranaki faded slightly, and allowed the Lions a third penalty goal and, in the dying moments of the game, a try.

Over all, Taranaki had a territorial advantage. The Lions got within striking distance of the Taranaki line once only. They pressed more and more after half time. The Lions forwards were dominant in the line-outs, especially after the break through. Burke, Mackie and the Carrolls also got their share of the leather. The set scrums went to Taranaki, Boon proving the most successful of any rake against the Irishman, Dawson. He took the tight-heads, 5 to 2.

The feature of the first spell was the evenness of the two forward packs in all phases. The feature of the second spell was the way the Lions backs came to life.

In the scoring, Bayly kicked a penalty for Taranaki, two minutes after the start, then ten minutes before half time, Thomas lifted the flags for the Lions, making it three-all.

Fifteen minutes after resumption, Scotland kicked his dropped goal and ten minutes later put over a penalty from nearly half way. After 26 minutes Thomas kicked a penalty, making it



The Wellington 1953 team photographed on the train to Wellington.



R. C. Stuart, Canterbury captain (on right), receives the Ranfurly Shield from Mr. S. S. Dean (left), President of the Wellington R.F.U. Looking on are the Wellington Chairman, Mr. J. N. Millard, and the Canterbury President, Mr. W. C. Dalley.

12 to 3, and finally, just before time, Price went over, leaving the Lions in front—15 to 3.

This was the second time Taranaki had lost the Shield to an overseas team. In 1958, Charles Blunt's Australians defeated them 12 to nil.

The previous Australian touring side of 1955 got great pleasure in defeating their holders, Canterbury, by quite a score. These defeats do no harm and restore balance.

Lions

K. J. Scotland

J. R. C. Young, M. J. Price, M. C. Thomas, P. B. Jackson

G. H. Waddell R. E. Jeeps

R. W. Marques, A. Ashcroft, R. H. Williams, W. R. Evans, H. J. Morgan, H. F. McLeod, A. R. Dawson, S. Miller.

Taranaki fielded the same side as played against Wanganui, Coles taking the place of O'Neill. LIONS 15, TARANAKI 3.

It is, I think, a fair criticism to say that Taranaki had not, throughout its tenure played the constantly typical Shield football as displayed by the more recent holders of the Shield. There's no doubt at all about this. Against Wellington on August 22nd, however, they showed latent quality.

There were one or two changes in the Taranaki side from the fifteen who took the field against the Lions. Mathieson, the New Zealand Maori centre, went in as centre, displacing Brown who moved into Cameron's place at five-eighth, Darney took Ray Carroll's place in the pack.

Wellington

M. Williment

R. Watt W. S. Fleming R. W. Caulton
D. T. Bradburn J. Lees

B. A. Cull

K. J. Gray, D. N. McIntosh, I. N. MacEwan, R. H. Horsley, T. Grbich, C. Currie, I. M. Vodanovich, W. G. Dick.

Taranaki recaptured its best form against Wellington, scoring five tries, two of which were converted, and a penalty goal. Wellington's tally was two penalty goals. The ground was firm and conditions were ideal for the 24,000 people who saw Taranaki play its best football of the season.

The score was six all at half time, but in the second spell there was only one side in it, Taranaki piling on the points. Urbahn gave sound service from the scrum and McCullough was right on his game.

As a spectacle the game was magnificent. Wellington tried hard but were not up to it. The Wellington insides, Cull, Lees and Bradburn were slow and were overwhelmed by the opposition. The forwards were much more evenly matched with the holders, showing up more in the second half.

Tries were scored for Taranaki by Mathieson, Carrol, O'Neill, McCullough and Flavell. Bayly kicked a penalty goal and converted a try. Milliment, the prominent junior, kicked two penalties for the winners. TARANAKI 22, WELLINGTON 6.

MORE LIKE DEFENDERS THAN CHALLENGERS

Taranaki faced its thirteenth challenge on August 26th when it defeated Otago by 22 to 3, made up of four tries, one converted, and a potted goal. Otago's points came from a penalty goal.

Otago

O. C. Leary

W. J. McCauley V. E. Lloyd E. S. Diack
G. John J. H. Hotop

W. Batchelor

A. R. Barker, P. N. Jennings, W. Lowe, K. Nelson, W. D. Gillespie, A. R. Morgan, I. M. Stevens, J. B. Marshall.

Irwin and Conway were not available for this game which was played before a crowd of 16,500.

Taranaki had control throughout, the forwards playing with fire and their makeshift back-line attacking with devastating effect in the first half. After the first fifteen minutes there was only one team in it. The score at half time was 14 points to 3.

For most of the second half, Otago was penned on its own twenty five, but Taranaki beat the defence once in this period. The game was won by Taranaki in the first spell when three magnificent tries were scored in under 12 minutes.

Before the game started it was thought that Taranaki would have to make it a forward game, but it was the backs who came to light, and this was quite unexpected for Brown, McCullough and Briscoe were called upon by the New Zealand selectors. Burke, the captain, was out with an injury and D. J. Mathieson, the New Zealand Maori centre, played, but he had a leg injury.

For most of the second half, it seemed as if Otago was defending the Shield. Its inside backs kicked for the line far too much and even if the play was in the Otago half and the tide against it, it seemed the worst of tactics to lose possession. The team lacked a leader.

There was little between the forward packs in the first quarter, but Taranaki gradually

attained ascendancy. The Otago backs showed little combination and lacked speed.

Taranaki's points came from tries by Keith and O'Sullivan, O'Neill and Mathieson, a dropped goal by Cameron, a conversion and two penalty goals by Bayly. Diack kicked a penalty for the challengers.

The year 1959 was the worst in Otago history. They started off with a remarkable victory over the Lions, then they fell away. They were defeated by Wellington and Southland by 40 points and went down badly to other provinces. This was surprising; no team in New Zealand had such a consistent run of success over years, particularly on tour. I believe that on only three occasions have they been defeated by over 30 points. Canterbury beat them 31-8 in 1914, and 32-9 in 1915. Southland had a good win over them in 1930, winning by 37 to 5.

It is hard to account for this falling away; in Dunedin I was darkly informed that it was economic. Southland was applying sanctions and putting up a bluff with a new harbour. I feel this will only be a temporary lapse and that the Dark Blues will again field sides in keeping with their great tradition. TARANAKI 22, OTAGO 3.

This Southland victory made me think of the total inadequacy of the New Zealand selectors who have irked me for some time. The old-time selectors regularly produced the rabbit out of the hat in the way of promising new stars, but these fellows give us a hat full of mediocrity. In the Inter-Island game there were no new stars. The selectors were allergic to talent.

Take last season. The North-South game was played under difficult conditions but the selectors blindly took the result as a yardstick of the relative strength of the two Islands and so the New Zealand team contained only three from the Mainland. They were right off the beam and suffered from an unfortunate delusion that Taranaki had all the worthwhile players, so in the end they brought in all the Taranaki types they could and ironically passed over the very men in Bayly and McCullough who should have been in.

I went down to Invercargill in the early part of last season and was greatly impressed with what I saw and told my old friend, Charles Jenkins, that Southland would take the Shield off Taranaki. Whether the South Island member of the panel saw them I don't know, but the men I saw were not chosen.

We in the South were unlucky that our claims were overlooked and I think it is high time we had a voice. Canterbury and Southland had much good talent and this will be seen again this season. There is also a most unfortunate practice of rigidly ruling the tactics of the game

from the side line and this has made for a body-belted style of football out of keeping with the great tradition of our past. We should clear out these fellows and regain our lost heritage. Victory is not enough. There must be a striving for some measure of perfection.

Southland overshadowed Taranaki by 23 points to 6. There was only one team in it.

Southland

D. L. Ashby

R. W. Todd K. Laidlaw J. G. Allison

W. J. Archer W. R. Archer

A. J. Tait

A. J. Soper, E. A. Gorton, D. W. Jack, I. Miller,
H. W. O'Neill, J. S. Borland, L. K. Fyall,
G. G. Spencer.

With the exception of Mathieson, the Taranaki team was the same as that which took the field against Wellington two weeks before.

The game was won and lost in the forwards, and the Southland backs, ably directed by Robin Archer, played cleverly.

In New Plymouth they said that the Maroon victory was mainly due to the fact that Southland fielded the best pack seen in Taranaki's Shield series. The holder's pack which had never been bested was now overwhelmed.

As the game progressed and the Shield shifted further from Taranaki's grasp, the impression was felt that the holders, at their very best would have had to acknowledge its master in the great set from the South. There was a fierce intensity in the play of the Southland forwards that Taranaki couldn't match. Except for a few minutes before half time the North Islanders were submerged by the Maroon tide.

This was not a spectacular Shield game. There had been many better; but any fireworks were supplied by the challengers. From the first whistle it was hard intransigent Shield Rugby, but it was a thrilling game because of the intensity of the forward struggle.

At half-time the score board read 9 to 6 in Southland's favour, and at this point, Taranaki might have had a chance; but the tide was definitely with the challengers. During the first ten minutes of the second spell it looked as if the home team would make a come-back and save the day but the Maroons came back strongly and in the last 30 minutes ran up a score of 14 points, which included three tries.

Taranaki were beaten in the scrums, line-outs, rucks and loose play. Every member of the Southland pack contributed to this great victory with Soper in magnificent form.

The Taranaki back line was impotent. The All Black inside back combination of Urbahn, McCullough and Brown were starved of the ball. They were never dangerous and looked far from All Black standard.

Southland tries came from Soper, Todd, Watson, Archer and Allison. Ashley kicked three penalty goals and made one conversion. For the holders, Bayly and Darney kicked penalty goals. SOUTHLAND 23, TARANAKI 6.

The question has been asked: "How good was this Taranaki team?" A fairly good line can be taken from the figures. In all, they played 14 games in defence of the Shield, scoring 263 points to 110. If you can take out 87 points scored by Nelson and Motueka, who were not really up to it, it would give Taranaki an average of something like 13.5 points for and 7 against.

Otago's figures for 19 games were 389 points for and 83 against, their average being 20.5 points for and 4.5 against.

Waikato showed a very good record over their Shield period, with an average of 15 points for and 4.5 against.

Canterbury with 24 matches scored a total of 474 points with 186 against, an average of 19.75 for and 10.3 against. Their defence was not the equal of that of Otago.

I have not given the figures of other provinces who did not reach double figures.

By these figures, it would appear that Taranaki was not in the class of Otago, Waikato, Canterbury and Wellington. Wellington were a great attacking side and in their six games averaged 21.8 points for and 2 against.

It is illuminating to review the figures relating to the percentage of wins per matches played. In 1926 Hawkes Bay showed the wonderful figures of 72.5 per cent. of victories, and now after 34 years, the Bay still heads the list. Quite an unbelievable position.

Of the Unions which have won over 50 games,

the figures are Canterbury, 66.2 per cent., Otago 64.8 per cent., Wellington 61.5 per cent. Auckland, who were out of the picture for years, show 53.2 per cent., and Taranaki show 48. Waikato, who came into the field late with 13 wins out of 20, show 65 per cent. wins, the result of one long sequence.

It may be quite a long time before the Bay figures are eclipsed, for in the absence of a long tenure of the Shield, individual percentages necessarily reduce year by year. There is, of course, the added fact that new contenders such as Manawatu, North Auckland and Counties are due for their share of victories. At the moment, it looks as if Waikato would have the best chance of hitting the top of the ladder.

On September 12th, two games were played which were indicative of the shape of things to come. At Palmerston North, Manawatu defeated the Shield holders by 17 to 11.

At half time, Manawatu were trailing Southland by 6 to 3. In the second spell, they rose to the occasion to master the Southland pack and to eclipse the Maroon backs. Their open style of play was not pronounced until fairly late in the game. Then Southland had to take second place to a team which was full of running. This was Manawatu's eighth victory. The previous year they did very well against Taranaki, just being nosed out by 9 to 8.

On the same day at New Plymouth, Auckland defeated the late holders of the Shield by 12 to 9. It was a game which disappointed, full of the wrong kind of fire. For Auckland, Sibun scored a try and Davies kicked three penalty goals. Taranaki's points came from a try by O'Sullivan and two penalties by Bayly.

LONG HOP FROM INVERCARGILL TO AUCKLAND

Auckland

W. A. Davies

J. Sibun P. Little L. Russell

T. R. Lineen S. Nesbit

A. T. Edgar

W. Whineray, K. H. Emery, D. E. Caughley,
A. R. Pryor, R. H. Graham, G. Perry, F. Colthurst, W. L. White.

Southland were a great disappointment to a mid-week crowd of 20,000 who were seeing their champions for the first time since lifting the Shield.

For only 10 minutes mid-way into the second half did the holders produce the type of play which won them the Shield. For the rest of the game they played second fiddle to a side with speedy backs and forwards who won an unlimited supply of the ball. Auckland played

non-stop football, a feature of which was intensive backing up.

Auckland won the toss and played with an easterly breeze. The breeze was certainly with them. Ten minutes before half time it changed round to the west and they had it at their backs all through the second spell. Auckland's outstanding backs were Edgar at half and Davies at fullback. The former speedily and smoothly cleared the ball from the rucks and line-outs. Davies showed magnificent positional play and glorious long line kicking. On the holder's side, Tait at half and Ashby at fullback didn't fare at all well.

In the Auckland pack, Whineray was well supported in the tight by Pryor, Caughley and White. Graham shone in the line-outs and in the loose, Emery and Pryor were prominent in

telling loose rucks. Nesbit justified his inclusion and played impressively.

Southland led by 6 to 0 after a quarter of an hour's play, and then Edgar worked the blind side with Davies, and the fullback ran hard before passing to Sibun, the left winger. Sibun ran round Todd, the Southland wing, and unloaded to Nesbit who scored after a slashing 50-yard run.

Lineen scored Auckland's second try by slipping through a mass of defenders. At half time the scoreboard read: Auckland 10, Southland 6. Ashby kicked two penalties for the holders.

After 30 minutes in the second spell, Lineen ran on the blind calling for the ball, but Edgar whipped it out to the right wing Russell, who dashed through the Southland defence, drew Ashby and sent the centre, Little, across. This try was not converted. Ashby kicked a third penalty, leaving the score 13 to 9 with the Shield to Auckland.

It was a very satisfying display by Auckland and a most disappointing one by Southland who couldn't understand why they had played so badly.

If you turn back and read how convincingly they played at New Plymouth, it is apparent that they didn't produce that form. This sort of thing happens all the time. A classic example was the defeat of Canterbury by Wairarapa in 1950. Canterbury had bested a good Otago pack to lift the Shield; but against Wairarapa, a quite average team, they couldn't raise a gallop.

What I saw of the Southland players early in the season makes me think this was not their true form. They are a young team and will be heard of again.

Canterbury defeated Auckland on the following Saturday by 27 to 14, a most convincing defeat. There has been a tendency to play down the significance of this victory and to say that Auckland were not as strong as they were against Southland. If anything, I think it was a stronger combination, especially in the backs. At Christchurch, the inside backs were Edgar, Adrian Clarke and Davies. McMullen came in at centre, and Herewhini took the fullback position.

This young Maori boy took the eye from the jump-off. He was flawless in everything he did. He showed no hesitation in diving on the ball in the face of fierce forward rushes, clearing with beautiful long line kicks. His tackling was low and deadly. On attack, when he was expected to kick, he fooled the opposition and darted down the field, bringing roars of applause from the crowd. This was one of the best fullback displays seen on the park for many a year.

In the Auckland pack, there were two changes from that which took the field against Southland. Whineray and Colthurst were replaced by Nathan

and Morrow. Emery retired during the game and his place was taken by Fell.

For Canterbury this was a resounding win. As they lined out, Auckland looked the more formidable rearguard; but it may be said generally that they did not receive from their forwards the backing up that the Canterbury pack gave.

Auckland opened with about fifteen minutes of the most terrific storming attack that I ever remember seeing. The first few rucks were fiery, both packs throwing themselves into the fray like men demented. Emery and Pryor were barging along as if they had dynamos inside them. They were only hurled to the ground by super human effort. These two with Nathan repeatedly won considerable stretches of ground with fast tearaway rushes.

I said to myself, "We'll never hold these fellows if they can last out." But the Canterbury line-out players, Hill and Cochrane, began to assert themselves and the Reds started to move slowly along the side line. The Canterbury backs took advantage of this and their loose forwards, now able to show up, gave their attack an impetus that tried the defence.

By half-time the Red forwards were on top, especially in the tight. Auckland carried several scrums, but such was the pace of Burry, Tremaine and Graham, that Edgar was put off his game and was forced into passing quickly or being caught in possession.

Midway through the second spell Canterbury sprang to life. Then one saw the most dazzling exhibition of Rugby seen on the Park since the Bay were here in 1926. The Reds, forwards and backs combining in beautiful machine-like movement, ran through Auckland at will.

One scribe said: "The Lions drew crowds to Lancaster Park but in none of those games did the public see the high standard that was played by Auckland and Canterbury. If this match proved nothing else, it proved that the open attacking Rugby that was played through the Dominion not so many years ago has not been forgotten and that victory can be gained just as well by using the backs in an attacking role, as it can by playing the ball close to the chest."

We have had years of body-belting football and it might have caused Mr. J. L. Sullivan, had he been present, to wonder if his hard, clamping directions to the All Blacks backs were not, after all, totally wrong.

Make no mistake, this Canterbury side was tremendous.

I do not remember a game for years where the time passed so quickly. It was a succession of thrills.

First, D. J. Graham picked up the ball, whipped it to Smith, who returned it to Graham, then on to Burry, coming up like a tram to

score after breaking through a tackle. Davis kicked a penalty, making it 3 all.

Shortly afterwards Davis scored a try which was converted and Graham a try for the home-sters. Before half-time, McPhail, the Canterbury wing, broke through, passed to Tremaine who flew across the line. At the interval Canterbury led 9 to 8.

On resumption, Tremaine, who was playing a wonderful game, came quickly off the side of the scrum to brush off two defenders and go over. Canterbury 12 to 8. Graham started Canterbury's next scoring movement when he tackled an Aucklander in possession. Burry, playing brilliantly, was up with the play and kicked through. McPhail was up but couldn't get his hands to the ball, and Burry, moving quickly touched down for Henderson to convert. Canterbury 17, Auckland 8.

The Red backs were now in full cry, running and passing with precision. Davis kicked a penalty, bringing Auckland's total to 11. It was advanced to 14 when Fell dropped on to the ball.

In the last 10 minutes, Auckland couldn't stand the pressure. Canterbury were over twice

under the posts. McPhail and LeLievres scored for Henderson to convert. Canterbury 27, Auckland 17.

Canterbury crossed Auckland's line seven times.

After the game, "Snow" White said: "We were beaten by a better side. Their play in the loose was magnificent. We had our chances: they made the most of them."

I had a word with Fred Allen. We both attended the nearby school at Phillipstown. He seemed a bit down at the result and said, "Your loose forwards were too good. I would like to meet Dr. Burry."

I brought Burry up and introduced him, and on leaving I remarked facetiously to Fred, "We will be touring North next year. You can insure against rain, but you can't insure against Canterbury—they are unpredictable."

Fred replied: "All we want is about six games, that'll be enough." It passed my mind at the time, that Canterbury might, after all, have some difficulty in arranging a match. If Fred Allen knew then, Tom Pearce would have known it early in the piece.

LAST WORD ON THE SHIELD

On the 26th August 1905 at Wellington, Auckland lifted the Shield from Wellington defeating the holders by 10 points to 6. Then began the greatest run in the history of the Shield. Auckland fielded many noble sides and formed the backbone of the most famous combinations ever to wear the Silver Fern. New Zealand was right at its peak.


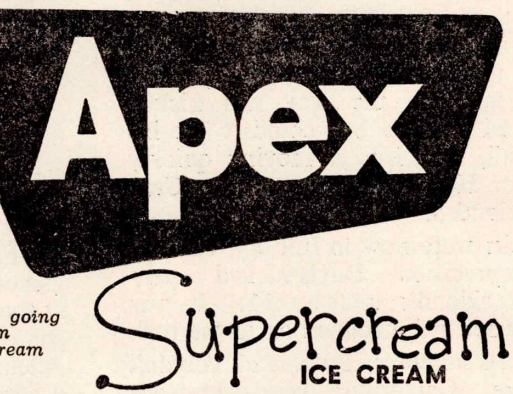
When Auckland takes the field against Thames Valley on August 13th it may well be that another glorious era will commence and that we shall again see Rugby played in all its arts and graces as it was fifty years ago.

Easter Day, 1960, Christchurch.


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THE RANFURLY SHIELD

TABLE OF MATCHES

1904—Wellington	6	Auckland	3.	At Auckland
Wellington	6	Canterbury	3.	At Wellington
Wellington	15	Otago	13.	At Wellington
1905—Wellington	3	Wairarapa	3.	At Wellington
Wellington	11	Hawkes Bay	3.	At Wellington
Auckland	10	Wellington	6.	At Wellington
1906—Auckland	29	Canterbury	6.	At Auckland
Auckland	18	Taranaki	5.	At Auckland
Auckland	48	Southland	12.	At Auckland
Auckland	11	Wellington	5.	At Auckland
1907—Auckland	21	Buller	0.	At Auckland
Auckland	12	Hawkes Bay	3.	At Auckland
Auckland	6	Wanganui	5.	At Auckland
1908—Auckland	32	Marlborough	0.	At Auckland
Auckland	24	Wellington	3.	At Auckland
Auckland	9	Taranaki	0.	At Auckland
Auckland	11	Otago	5.	At Auckland
1909—Auckland	18	Taranaki	5.	At Auckland
1910—Auckland	11	Hawkes Bay	3.	At Auckland
Auckland	3	Wellington	3.	At Auckland
Auckland	16	Taranaki	9.	At Auckland
Auckland	6	Canterbury	4.	At Auckland
1911—Auckland	21	South Auckland	5.	At Auckland
Auckland	29	Poverty Bay	10.	At Auckland
1912—Auckland	6	Taranaki	5.	At Auckland
Auckland	12	Wellington	0.	At Auckland
Auckland	5	Otago	5.	At Auckland
1913—Auckland	6	Wellington	5.	At Auckland
Auckland	27	Poverty Bay	3.	At Auckland
Taranaki	14	Auckland	11.	At Auckland
1914—Taranaki	17	Wanganui	3.	At Hawera
Taranaki	11	Manawatu	3.	At New Plymouth
Taranaki	14	Horowhenua	3.	At Hawera
Taranaki	22	Wairarapa	3.	At Stratford
Taranaki	6	Canterbury	5.	At New Plymouth
Taranaki	6	Southland	0.	At New Plymouth
Wellington	12	Taranaki	6.	At Stratford
1919—Wellington	21	Canterbury	8.	At Wellington
Wellington	18	Taranaki	10.	At Wellington
Wellington	23	Canterbury	9.	At Christchurch
Wellington	24	Auckland	3.	At Wellington
Wellington	30	Wanganui	3.	At Wellington

1920—Wellington	15	Canterbury	3.	At Wellington
Wellington	22	Bay of Plenty	3.	At Wellington
Wellington	20	Taranaki	9.	At Hawera
Wellington	28	Hawkes Bay	5.	At Wellington
Wellington	23	Auckland	20.	At Auckland
Wellington	16	Taranaki	5.	At Wellington
Wellington	20	Wanganui	14.	At Wellington
Wellington	20	Auckland	3.	At Wellington
Wellington	32	South Canterbury	16.	At Timaru
Wellington	16	Otago	5.	At Dunedin
Southland	17	Wellington	6.	At Invercargill
1921—Southland	10	Otago	8.	At Invercargill
Wellington	28	Southland	13.	At Wellington
Wellington	27	Auckland	19.	At Wellington
Wellington	13	Otago	8.	At Wellington
1922—Hawkes Bay	19	Wellington	9.	At Wellington
Hawkes Bay	17	Bay of Plenty	16.	At Hastings
Hawkes Bay	42	King Country	8.	At Napier
1923—Hawkes Bay	6	Wairarapa	0.	At Napier
Hawkes Bay	10	Wellington	6.	At Napier
Hawkes Bay	15	Poverty Bay	0.	At Hastings
Hawkes Bay	9	Canterbury	8.	At Hastings
Hawkes Bay	38	Horowhenua	11.	At Napier
Hawkes Bay	20	Auckland	5.	At Napier
1924—Hawkes Bay	30	Wairarapa	14.	At Napier
Hawkes Bay	46	Poverty Bay	10.	At Napier
Hawkes Bay	35	Nelson	3.	At Hastings
Hawkes Bay	23	Auckland	6.	At Napier
Hawkes Bay	31	Manawatu	5.	At Hastings
1925—Hawkes Bay	22	Wairarapa	3.	At Napier
Hawkes Bay	24	Canterbury	18.	At Napier
Hawkes Bay	31	Southland	12.	At Napier
Hawkes Bay	28	Taranaki	3.	At Hastings
Hawkes Bay	20	Wellington	11.	At Wellington
Hawkes Bay	34	Otago	14.	At Hastings
1926—Hawkes Bay	77	Wairarapa	14.	At Napier
Hawkes Bay	36	Wanganui	3.	At Hastings
Hawkes Bay	58	Wellington	8.	At Napier
Hawkes Bay	41	Auckland	11.	At Napier
Hawkes Bay	17	Canterbury	15.	At Christchurch
1927—Wairarapa	15	Hawkes Bay	11.	At Napier
Wairarapa	53	Bush	3.	At Masterton
Hawkes Bay	21	Wairarapa	10.	At Masterton*
Manawhenua	18	Wairarapa	16.	At Carterton
Manawhenua	9	Taranaki	3.	At Palmerston North
Manawhenua	25	Wanganui	6.	At Palmerston North
Canterbury	17	Mangawhenua	6.	At Palmerston North
1928—Canterbury	29	South Canterbury	9.	At Christchurch
Wairarapa	8	Canterbury	7.	At Christchurch
Wairarapa	57	Bush	11.	At Masterton
Wairarapa	26	Marlborough	8.	At Carterton
Wairarapa	9	Wellington	3.	At Carterton
Wairarapa	31	Manawhenua	10.	At Carterton

1929—Wairarapa	10	Hawkes Bay	6.	At Masterton
Wairarapa	17	Auckland	14.	At Carterton
Wairarapa	37	Manawhenua	16.	At Masterton
Wairarapa	17	Canterbury	12.	At Masterton
Southland	19	Wairarapa	16.	At Carterton
1930—Southland	19	Wanganui	0.	At Invercargill
Southland	37	Otago	5.	At Invercargill
Southland	9	Hawkes Bay	6.	At Invercargill
Wellington	12	Southland	3.	At Invercargill
1931—Wellington	36	Southland	13.	At Wellington
Canterbury	8	Wellington	6.	At Wellington
Canterbury	17	Otago	6.	At Christchurch
1932—Canterbury	11	South Canterbury	5.	At Christchurch
Canterbury	14	Auckland	0.	At Christchurch
Canterbury	5	West Coast	3.	At Christchurch
Canterbury	9	Wellington	8.	At Christchurch
Canterbury	13	Buller	0.	At Christchurch
Canterbury	17	Waikato	6.	At Christchurch
1933—Canterbury	31	Ashburton County	7.	At Christchurch
Canterbury	21	Southland	3.	At Christchurch
Canterbury	8	Otago	5.	At Christchurch
Canterbury	23	West Coast	14.	At Christchurch
Canterbury	13	Buller	3.	At Christchurch
Canterbury	15	Taranaki	15.	At Christchurch
Canterbury	6	South Canterbury	3.	At Christchurch
Canterbury	36	King Country	0.	At Christchurch
1934—Hawkes Bay	9	Canterbury	0.	At Christchurch
Hawkes Bay	39	Wanganui	16.	At Napier
Hawkes Bay	23	Taranaki	8.	At Napier
Auckland	18	Hawkes Bay	14.	At Napier
1935—Auckland	29	North Auckland	8.	At Auckland
Canterbury	16	Auckland	13.	At Auckland
Canterbury	27	Wairarapa	16.	At Christchurch
Canterbury	8	Southland	3.	At Christchurch
Canterbury	16	West Coast	11.	At Christchurch
Canterbury	12	South Canterbury	11.	At Christchurch
Otago	15	Canterbury	6.	At Christchurch
1936—Otago	16	Southland	3.	At Dunedin
Otago	14	Auckland	5.	At Dunedin
Otago	11	Manawatu	5.	At Dunedin
Otago	26	South Canterbury	3.	At Dunedin
Otago	16	Canterbury	0.	At Dunedin
Otago	30	North Auckland	0.	At Dunedin
Otago	16	Wellington	3.	At Dunedin
Otago	30	West Coast	0.	At Dunedin
1937—Southland	12	Otago	7.	At Dunedin
1938—Otago	7	Southland	6.	At Invercargill
Otago	16	Canterbury	7.	At Dunedin
Otago	27	South Canterbury	16.	At Dunedin
Otago	12	North Otago	0.	At Dunedin
Otago	4	Hawkes Bay	0.	At Dunedin
Otago	24	Taranaki	3.	At Dunedin
Southland	10	Otago	5.	At Dunedin
Southland	10	Wellington	3.	At Invercargill
Southland	20	Ashburton County	16.	At Invercargill

1939—Southland	23	Otago	4.	At Invercargill
Southland	17	Manawatu	3.	At Invercargill
Southland	38	Bush	0.	At Invercargill
Southland	50	Ashburton County	0.	At Invercargill
1946—Southland	3	Otago	0.	At Invercargill
Southland	11	Canterbury	3.	At Invercargill
Southland	35	South Canterbury	9.	At Invercargill
Southland	12	Wairarapa	3.	At Invercargill
Southland	15	North Otago	3.	At Invercargill
1947—Otago	17	Southland	11.	At Dunedin
Otago	31	North Auckland	12.	At Dunedin
Otago	18	Auckland	12.	At Dunedin
Otago	8	Southland	0.	At Dunedin
Otago	42	North Otago	3.	At Dunedin
1948—Otago	25	Southland	0.	At Dunedin
Otago	31	Canterbury	0.	At Dunedin
Otago	20	Wanganui	3.	At Dunedin
Otago	12	Hawkes Bay	6.	At Dunedin
Otago	40	Poverty Bay	0.	At Dunedin
Otago	36	South Canterbury	6.	At Dunedin
Otago	11	Wellington	0.	At Dunedin
1949—Otago	6	Buller	6.	At Dunedin
Otago	22	Manawatu	3.	At Dunedin
Otago	6	Southland	3.	At Dunedin
Otago	27	Waikato	5.	At Dunedin
Otago	6	Taranaki	5.	At Dunedin
Otago	16	Auckland	5.	At Dunedin
1950—Otago	22	Southland	3.	At Dunedin
Canterbury	8	Otago	0.	At Dunedin
Wairarapa	3	Canterbury	0.	At Christchurch
S. Canterbury	17	Wairarapa	14.	At Masterton
N. Auckland	20	South Canterbury	9.	At Masterton
1951—N. Auckland	16	Bay of Plenty	12.	At Whangarei
N. Auckland	19	Thames Valley	6.	At Whangarei
Waikato	6	North Auckland	3.	At Whangarei
Waikato	14	North Auckland	6.	At Hamilton
Waikato	32	Bay of Plenty	10.	At Hamilton
Waikato	21	Taranaki	12.	At Hamilton
Waikato	14	Wanganui	0.	At Hamilton
1952—Waikato	17	Thames Valley	3.	At Hamilton
Waikato	14	Wairarapa	0.	At Hamilton
Auckland	9	Waikato	0.	At Hamilton
Waikato	6	Auckland	3.	At Auckland
Waikato	16	King Country	8.	At Hamilton
Waikato	12	Manawatu	3.	At Hamilton
Waikato	20	West Coast	6.	At Hamilton
1953—Waikato	19	Bay of Plenty	3.	At Hamilton
Waikato	24	North Auckland	5.	At Hamilton
Waikato	3	Taranaki	3.	At Hamilton
Wellington	9	Waikato	6.	At Hamilton
Wellington	22	Southland	6.	At Wellington
Wellington	42	East Coast	0.	At Wellington
Wellington	9	Otago	3.	At Wellington
Wellington	26	Taranaki	3.	At Wellington
Wellington	23	Auckland	6.	At Wellington
Canterbury	24	Wellington	3.	At Wellington
Canterbury	19	Buller	3.	At Christchurch

1954—	Canterbury	18	Southland	10.	At Christchurch
	Canterbury	16	Wairarapa	3.	At Christchurch
	Canterbury	24	South Canterbury	11.	At Christchurch
	Canterbury	6	Waikato	6.	At Christchurch
	Canterbury	11	Taranaki	6.	At Christchurch
	Canterbury	8	West Coast	0.	At Christchurch
	Canterbury	9	Otago	9.	At Christchurch
	Canterbury	17	Wanganui	13.	At Christchurch
	Canterbury	22	Buller	0.	At Christchurch
1955—	Canterbury	12	Auckland	6.	At Christchurch
	Canterbury	19	South Canterbury	6.	At Christchurch
	Canterbury	30	Wellington	11.	At Christchurch
	Canterbury	39	North Auckland	11.	At Christchurch
	Canterbury	15	Otago	8.	At Christchurch
	Canterbury	20	West Coast	11.	At Christchurch
	Canterbury	24	Thames Valley	11.	At Christchurch
1956—	Canterbury	14	Mid Canterbury	6.	At Christchurch
	Canterbury	21	Hawkes Bay	9.	At Christchurch
	Canterbury	19	Wanganui	6.	At Christchurch
	Canterbury	32	South Canterbury	17.	At Christchurch
	Canterbury	17	Southland	3.	At Christchurch
	Wellington	8	Canterbury	0.	At Christchurch
	Wellington	9	Auckland	6.	At Wellington
1957—	Wellington	22	Bush	9.	At Wellington
	Wellington	15	Poverty Bay	3.	At Wellington
	Wellington	34	Wanganui	5.	At Wellington
	Otago	19	Wellington	11.	At Wellington
	Otago	6	South Canterbury	3.	At Dunedin
	Taranaki	11	Otago	9.	At Dunedin
1958—	Taranaki	56	Golden Bay-Motueka	8.	At New Plymouth
	Taranaki	16	Mid Canterbury	0.	At New Plymouth
	Taranaki	15	King Country	11.	At New Plymouth
	Taranaki	9	Manawatu	8.	At New Plymouth
	Taranaki	22	Wanganui	9.	At New Plymouth
	Taranaki	6	Wellington	6.	At New Plymouth
	Taranaki	15	Waikato	3.	At New Plymouth
	Taranaki	14	North Auckland	3.	At New Plymouth
	Taranaki	11	Counties	5.	At New Plymouth
1959—	Taranaki	31	Nelson	14.	At New Plymouth
	Taranaki	17	Wanganui	11.	At New Plymouth
	Taranaki	22	Wellington	6.	At New Plymouth
	Taranaki	23	Otago	3.	At New Plymouth
	Southland	6	Taranaki	23.	At Invercargill

Canterbury has played the most games for the most wins in the 56 years of Ranfurly Shield history. Wellington is second biggest winner, Otago third, Hawke's Bay fourth and Auckland fifth ahead of Taranaki and Southland.

The full record is:

	P.	W.	D.	L.	For	Agst.
Canterbury	68	45	3	20	968	629
Wellington	63	39	3	21	912	640
Otago	57	35	3	19	818	462
Auckland	48	26	2	20	617	495
Taranaki	42	21	3	18	505	458
Hawke's Bay	40	29	—	11	887	390
Southland	39	20	—	19	503	464
Wairarapa	26	12	1	13	398	405
Waikato	20	13	2	5	246	148
South Canterbury	16	1	—	15	144	335
Wanganui	16	—	—	16	101	369
North Auckland	10	3	—	7	97	200
West Coast	8	—	—	8	62	160
Manawatu	7	—	—	7	30	113
Poverty Bay	7	—	—	7	29	187
Manawhenua	6	3	—	3	84	110
Buller	6	—	1	5	12	94
Bay of Plenty	5	—	—	5	44	106
Bush	5	—	—	5	32	192
Mid-Canterbury	5	—	—	5	29	131
King Country	4	—	—	4	27	111
Thames Valley	3	—	—	3	20	60
North Otago	3	—	—	3	6	69
Nelson	2	—	—	2	17	66
Horowhenua	2	—	—	2	14	52
Marlborough	2	—	—	2	8	58
Golden Bay-Motueka	1	—	—	1	8	56
Counties	1	—	—	1	5	14
South Auckland	1	—	—	1	5	21
Mid-Canterbury	1	—	—	1	—	16
East Coast	1	—	—	1	—	42

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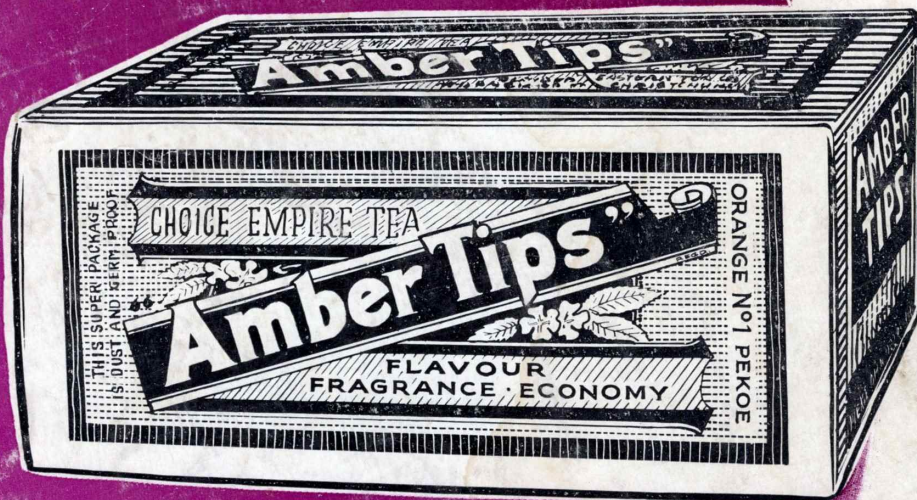
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Be sure it's Tip-Top . . . it's creamier

Valuable in Training Diets

Many athletes include ice-cream in their diet; and with good reason. There is no better or more enjoyable way to obtain many essential body-builders. It's a dairy food, containing the well-known dietary nutrients of milk and cream in their most easily, completely digestible form. Tip-Top Ice Cream is made from fresh cream daily.





*so
refreshing*



"Amber Tips" TEA